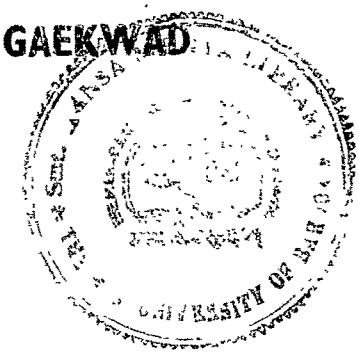
THE EARLY GAEKWADS: HISTORY OF THE BARODA STATE FROM PILAJIRAO GAEKWAD TO FATEHSINGRAO GAEKWAD (1720-1789)



By
SMT. INDRA SAXENA

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Under the guidance of
DR. S. C. MISRA
Professor & Head of the Department of History

FACULTY OF ARTS
THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY OF BARODA
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P R E F A C E

The present thesis is an attempt to study the history of Gaekwad rule in Gujarat. It deals with Gaekwad rule in Baroda extending from the initial phase under Pilajirao Gaekwad to its high water marks under Fatehsingrao I a period extending from 1720 to 1789.

This period is significant in the history of India in general and the history of Gujarat in particular, as the period of transition. The power of Gaekwads increased in the transitional stage, but their conflict with the Peshwas and their internal quarrels led to an erosion of their power. Fatehsingrao I may be said to be the last powerful ruler of the dynasty before the British extended their influence over the state. This period of independent Gaekwad rule has been studied in this thesis.

The study mainly focusses on political events of the period. It examines in detail the origin and the background of the Gaekwad family; their relations with Mughal Viceroys in the early phases; the links with the court of Satara and Poona; the relations with the English Government of Bombay; their internal family history and its tensions; their policy and activities in Kathiawad and related matters.

In this fashion, this study presents for the first time an original and consistent account of the history of Western

India in general and Gujarat and Baroda in particular during that century. Several new facts have been brought to light. Some of these aspects which have been dealt in detail are the circumstances leading to the foundation of Gaekwad rule in Baroda as a result of the discontent of the local people, factors leading to the success of the Gaekwads and the expansion of their territory, imposition of levies and tributes during that period, gradual rise of the Gaekwads from the subordination of the Dhabades to become independent rulers, Peshwa's interference in Gaekwad affairs to subdue the latters authority, the consolidation of Gaekwad's power during the rule of Fatehsingrao I without being bound to any superior power, internal relations of Gaekwad rulers with the other members of their family, Fatehsingrao's efforts for an amicable settlement with Govindrao, the formers success in accession in 1778 and consolidation of rule in Gujarat by Fatehsingrao I till his death.

The whole study is divided into eight chapters. A brief chapterwise contents are given below:

Chapter I: Introduction:

This chapter provides the background to the main contents of the thesis. It gives an account of Gujarat and its environs, approaches by land and sea, a brief historical account

highlighting the advent of Marathas in Gujarat. It also includes a discussion of the situation in Gujarat in the 18th century in context to which Gaekwad power emerged into prominence.

Chapter II: Gaekwad family, its origin and background:

This chapter deals with the Gaekwad family, its origin, early antecedents and emergence in Gujarat. An attempt has been made to clear up the controversy, whether Gaekwads were the followers of Senapati Dabhade or Kadam Bande. The career of Damajirao I has been sketched, elucidating the rise of Gaekwad from the small military officer to the rank of a ruler.

Chapter III: Pilajirao Gaekwad:

In this chapter the account of Pilajirao's activities is given starting from his early career till he rose to be a military chief of considerable importance in the Maratha confederacy. It has been shown that Pilajirao was the founder of the dynasty. Discontentment against Peshwa's supremacy, encounters against Mughal governors of the province for the collection of tribute, and several other such happenings are described in this chapter.

Chapter IV: Damajirao Gaekwad II:

This chapter describes the discomfiture caused by the assassination of Pilajirao in 1732 and the measure taken by

Damajirao II to overcome the situation. It also deals with consolidation of Gaekwad power during Damajirao's tenure and the settlements made with the Mughals, in the collection of revenues. Establishment of joint rule of Mughals and Marathas in the province, the conflicts and differences of Gaekwads with the Peshwa, which resulted in the end of Mughal rule in Gujarat and the events leading to the partition of the province between the Peshwa and Gaekwad is discussed in this chapter.

Chapter V: Gaekwad's share in revenues of Gujarat:

Revenue system in Gujarat before and during the Mughal rule is described in this chapter. Special reference has been made to the settlement of revenues of Surat, Khambhat (Cambay) and Broach as and when they took place during the period of Gaekwad. In particular, light has been shed on the division of the revenue of Broach between Fatehsingrao I and the English, and of Khambhat (Cambay) between its Nawab and Gaekwad. Gaekwads expedition in the Kathiawad by way of Mulukgiri for realisation of tribute has also been described in this chapter.

Chapter VI: Succession dispute between Sayajirao I and Govindrao:

The political situation after the death of Damajirao II and how the rival claimants for the gaddi viz. Govindrao and Sayajirao were prompted by the interested parties to further

their claims is described in the chapter. Among the outside intervention, attitude of the English, the position of the Poona Durbar and the Peshwa's support in the succession dispute is discussed. Details of several reversal orders regarding succession in favour of Sayajirao at one time and Govindrao at other are also described. Finally Fatehsingrao's conflict with Govindrao, intervention of the English, signing the treaty of Purandhar between Peshwa and English and the conciliatory attitude between the two brothers brought about by the English is discussed. Account of earlier treaty between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao is also given in this context.

Chapter VII: Fatehsingrao Gaekwad I:

Details leading to investiture of Fatehsingrao as Sena Khas Khel; treaty of Kundila; treaty of Salbai and its effects are described in this chapter. Consolidation of Fatehsingrao's power in the later years is being described.

Chapter VIII: Conclusion:

Correlation of Gaekwad power from a scratch during the time of Damajirao I to a consolidated power of Fatehsingrao I during the span of about seven decades (1720 - 1789) is being made in this concluding chapter.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

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I also wish to express thanks to the General Administration Department, Government of Gujarat, for granting me necessary permission to consult the old records pertaining to the period of study at the Baroda Records Office and to the Director, National Archives, New Delhi for permitting me to consult the documents of the period under study.

Indra Saxena

Abbreviations

B.P.D.	Bombay Political Department, Rajya Daftar, Baroda.
Comm.	A history of Gujarat Vol.II, Bombay 1957 of Commissariat M.S.
Forbes	Oriental Memoirs, Vol.I,II & III, London 1813 of James Forbes.
Gaz. B.S.	Gazetteer of the Baroda State,Vol.I,Baroda 1923 of Desai D.H. and Clark A.B.
Grant Duff	History of Mahrattas, Vol.I,II & III,Calcutta 1912 of Grant Duff J.
G.B.	Gaekwads of Baroda (Eng.Doc.)Vol.I,II,III& IX, Bombay,1938 of Gense G.H. & Banaji D.R.
G.Y.I.S.	Gaekwad Yanchya Itihasachi Sadhne of State Records Department, Baroda.
H.D.B.	Hazur Daftarkhana Baroda, of State Records Department , Baroda.
H.F.K.	Hazur Fadnis Kacheri of State Records Department, Baroda 1896.
H.P.O.	Huzur Political Office of State Records Department, Baroda.
H.S.B.S.R.	Historical Selections from Baroda State Records,Vol.I,II,III& IV of State Records Department 1936.
Imp.Gaz.	Imperial Gazetteer of India (Baroda Section), 1908.
Irvine	Later Mughals, Vol.II, Calcutta 1922 of Irvine W.
I.S.A.T.	Itihas Sangrah Aitihasic Tipne, Part I to VII, Bombay 1912 of Parasnis D.B.
Mirat.	'Mirat-i-Ahmadi' of Ali Mohammad Khan translated by Lokhandwala M.F. 1965.
M.D.L.	The Third English Embassy to Poona comprising Mostyn's Diary and letters, Bombay 1934 of Gense G.H. & Banaji D.R.

M.P.L.	Marathyancha Prasidh Ladhaya, Baroda 1922 of Shinde N.G.
M.R.M.	Marathi Riyasat, Madhya Vibhag, Bombay 1920 of Sardesai G.S.
Purandare Daftar	Purandare Daftar, Vol.I, Poona 1926 of Purandare K.V.
Selections F.D.	Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other state papers preserved in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, Vol.II, Calcutta 1890 of Forrest G.W.
Selections H.S.	Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other state papers preserved in the Bombay Secretariat (Home Series),Vol.I, Bombay 1887 of Forrest G.W.
Selections M.S.	Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other state papers preserved in the Bombay Secretariat (Maratha Series)Vol.I, Bombay 1885 of Forrest G.W.
Sardesai	New History of Marathas, Vol.I to III, Bombay 1948 of Sardesai G.S.
S.P.D.	Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Published by Bombay Government of Sardesai G.S.
S.P.D.J.	Selections from the Peshwa Daftar New Series, Vol.I & III, Bombay 1957 of Joshi P.M.
Treaties	A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries, Vol.VI to VIII, Calcutta 1909 of Aitchison C.U.
Wallace	Guicowar and his Relations with British Government, Bombay 1963 of Wallace R.

1. Works cited occassionally have been described in full in the relevant foot notes.

2. Some of the works have been cited by their authors name e.g. Oriental Memoirs have been cited as Forbes.

3. Full details of the important books, periodicals and manuscripts consulted are given in the Bibliography. All of them have not been mentioned in the foot notes.

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CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION

Gujarat and its environs in brief:

Gujarat forms the northern part of the western sea board of India. It is divided into two distinct zones - the peninsula of Saurashtra and the mainland of Gujarat. Traditionally, Gujarat has been bounded by Rajasthan in the north, Malwa in the northeast and Khandesh in the southeast. The Vindhya hills have separated it from both the former regions and Tapti river from the "Deccan" area, later known as Maharashtra. On the west Arabian sea board gave Gujarat a unique location in the Indian continent.

To trace the early history of Gujarat, paucity of material prevents to go deep into the matter. Still it could be stipulated by mythological accounts, obtained from Purans. Apart from it, though few in number, copper plates, coins and inscriptions on rocks etc also give some knowledge about it.

But for the invasion of Mahmud of Gazni, Gujarat enjoyed a long period of peace and prosperity during the Hindu rule till 1297, when Allauddin Khilji conquered the province. Later for more than a century, Gujarat formed a province of the Muslim empire. In the beginning of fifteenth century an ambitious viceroy of the province asserted his independence and formed the house of Ahmedabad kings. This kingdom was later annexed by Akbar in the later half of the sixteenth

century. The rule of the Mughals was prosperous till the later half of the seventeenth century, after which, the hold of the Mughals over the province became loose.

The general state of the province in that period was far from satisfactory. By that time the boundaries of the Mughal empire had reached down south. It was not an easy task for Aurangzeb to manage such distant parts of his empire effectively, due to the lack of confidence in his officers and his policy of intolerance towards hindus, which had a great impact on the peace and prosperity of his empire. As a result, hindu chiefs were assisting the reactionary forces against Mughals. When the Marathas appeared on the scene in the later half of seventeenth century in the province, the original inhabitants viz. Bhils and Kolis, who had never been wholly conquered, were glad to side with the Maratha revolutionary forces.[1] The Rajput chiefs who had established themselves in the adjoining boundaries of Gujarat, hailed the Marathas advent in the hope of a possible opportunity for complete independence. The same spirit was shown by smaller hindu landlords also. Moreover the later viceroys of the Mughal provinces such as Nizam, were anxious to push their own interests to attain the independence from the central rule.

1. Gazetteer of the Baroda State (hereinafter abbreviated as Gaz.B.S.) Vol.I, p.431.

As such they were also encouraging such factions which may strike out the root of the decaying Mughal authority in the province.

Mughals considered Gujarat as one of the important provinces and kept important chiefs or princes in charge of this province. But after Aurangzeb, Gujarat politics became more confused, as the rest of the empire. Mughal officers, in charge of Ahmedabad, Petlad, Baroda, Khambhat (Cambay), Surat, Balasinor, Junagadh etc. were of considerable importance. The sea ports of significance viz. Surat and Khambhat (Cambay) were kept very carefully safe in the hands of trusted officers. Even before the Mughals, Sultans of Gujarat kept these districts under their authority directly. The rest of the country was with the feudatory chiefs under Sultan's rule in Gujarat. They held lands in the form of jagirs for the support of irregular troops. Hindu chiefs were given grants of 'watan' or the one fourth share in the villages for the support of the troops maintained by them.

Maratha expansion with the rise of Shivaji:

By the time Aurangzeb ascended the throne of Delhi, Shivaji had already started his efforts to establish himself independently. For long Mughals were invading the Deccan kingdoms of Bijapur, Golkonda and Ahmednagar for the purpose of reducing these powers. Maratha chiefs, were of great help

to safeguard the rulers of these states. Some of these chiefs, rose to prominence while serving in these states. It may be surmised that these Mughal invasions had a great influence on the rise of Marathas[1]. It was during the long wars in Deccan against Mughals, that Maloji Bhonsle rose to prominence as a helpmates of Adilshahi General Malik Ambar. In appreciation to his services, the jagirs of Poona and Sopa were conferred on him by the Sultan of Ahmednagar along with the title of Raja and the charge of the forts of Chakun and Shivneri with its dependent districts. Like his father, Shahji also distinguished himself and added some more places in his jagir. On every occasion he boldly opposed the Mughals[2], who were operating against Ahmednagar. Thus he earned the respect and goodwill of the state.

During 1636 Shivaji, was in his father Shahji's jagir at Poona [3]. This independent charge of his father's jagir enhanced Shivaji's experience. During the period of three decades from 1644 to 1674 Shivaji could achieve full sovereignty[4]. In the year 1657, when for the first time Shivaji made an open raid against Mughal territory of Junnar and Kalyan, Aurangzeb got alarmed of this rising power.

1. Grant Duff, History of the Mahrattas (hereinafter abbreviated as Grant Duff) Vol.I, p.75.
2. Sardesai, New History of Marathas (hereinafter abbreviated as Sardesai) Vol.I, p.20
3. Ibid
4. Ibid

In the year 1658, Shivaji was busy consolidating his position in north and south of Konkan, adjoining to his paternal jagir above the ghats, which he had formed into an independent state. He had also established a large naval port at Kolaba[1].

In order to gain time for his future plans, Shivaji made peace with Bijapur state in the year 1660. Though alliance was also made with the English but these foreigners were always apprehensive of Shivaji's designs against them. Thus to be on safer side they always tried to remain neutral[2].

By this time the Maratha power had gained considerable importance. Their success was marked with great expansion of their territories which needed a large army for its control. In order to support the army, the revenues of Shivaji's own dominions were not sufficient. They had to look outside their dominion to make good this deficiency.

Gujarat being the most prosperous province, attracted Shivaji's attention. He made his first incursion into the province in the year 1664, invading Surat[3], the most important and one of the prosperous town and port of the Mughal empire. This earned him enormous booty. Shortly after this Khambhat

1. Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.165.
2. Ibid. p.212.
3. Mirat-i-Ahmadi of Ali Mohammad Khan translated by Lokhandwala M.F. (hereinafter abbreviated as Mirat),p.228.
   Forrest G.W., Selections from the letters, Despatches and other State Papers preserved in the Bombay Secretariat (Home Series) Bombay 1887 (hereinafter abbreviated as Selections H.S.) Vol.I, pp.24,33, 34 & 35.

(Cambay) was sacked by him by the sea route. In the year 1666 one of Shivaji's officer again attacked Surat and returned safely with the spoils.

In 1670 Shivaji attacked Surat again. This attack was of significance. This time on his retreat with the spoils he left a claim, a guarantee for the future expedition. Maratha policy was that once they overrun a country and made a demand of tribute, they got the right of paramount authority over it by virtue of a completed act of a successful invasion[1].

Shivaji's war tactics was to plunder the plains after seizing the hill forts. The object of the invasion was to get the booty and to use it in overthrowing the Mughal's authority. But in due course these tactics developed into systematic organised invasions under a disciplined army. Thus, it may be supposed that this was the start of establishing a Maratha authority over this province. Soon after he took the forts of Parnera and Bagwa in the south of Surat district in the year 1672[2].

A significant achievement in the year 1672 was the acquisition of the fort of Salher in Baglan, which guarded one of the most important passes from Deccan into Gujarat.

1. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.432.
2. Mirat P.312.

Marathas were thus able to get hold of the routes so important for their expedition.[1]

It was in the year 1675 that the Marathas crossed the river Narbada for the first time and under the Senapati Hambir Rao Mohite sacked Broach and levied the tribute[2]. Later in Shambhaji's time Broach was sacked again by the Marathas.[3] During the reign of Shambhaji this process of attacking Mughal territories and levying a tribute was carried out quite often. Aurangzeb made frantic efforts to suppress it, but could never succeed effectively.

By the time, Shivaji's second son Rajaram's accession took place the imposition of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi had become a regular practice[4]. One of Rajaram's trusted officer Khanderao Dabhade, made incursions into Surat district[5] and levied a tribute from the year 1700 to 1705. Fort of Salher proved to be a very useful acquisition as it was very conveniently situated. Afterwards Khanderao Dabhade and his men

1. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.432.
2. Grant Duff Vol.I, p.219.
3. Ibid p.276.
4. Forbes, Oriental Memoirs; (hereinafter abbreviated as Forbes) Vol.I; p.467.
   "The overwhelming power of the Marathas, whose tributary exactions were now under various denominations almost universally established ...."
5. Irvine, Later Mughals (hereinafter abbreviated as Irvine) Vol.II, p.165.

led several raids into Gujarat[1] and were usually crowned with success.

Gujarat in the early eighteenth century:

Gujarat politics in the first half of the eighteenth century was in a very confused state. Mughal empire was disintegrating and powerful chiefs of the empire were on their way of establishing their own independent states. As the later Mughals were weak rulers, the real power existed in the hands of these chiefs.

By that time Marathas had also established their sovereignty and were in a process of expansion. Thus it was evident that interest of the Marathas and the Mughals clashed. Still, as the circumstances were , they compromised with the situation. Taking advantages of the weakness of central authority at Delhi, foreigners viz. English, French, Dutch and Portugese were also trying to establish themselves.

Maratha incursions reached upto Kathiawad, and Sorath by 1711. They found the local system of 'Mulukgiri' or the system of collecting revenue by raids, more convenient and advantageous than incurring the expenses of permanently occupying the peninsula with a large army to manage its administration[2].

1. Mirat p.391.
   Selections (H.S. ~~series~~), Vol.I, p.248 dt.29th Jan.1703, p.249 7th Feb.1703, p.253 dt.18 Feb. 1703.
2. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.434-435.

Subsequently in 1716, Khanderao Dabhade, who was created Senapati of the Maratha army and who for many years subsisted his followers in Gujarat and Kathiawad, got the formal authority from Chatrapati Shahu for levying the tribute in Gujarat. Senapati authorised his lieutenant Damajirao Gaekwad I to levy tribute in Gujarat on his behalf. Under the Gaekwad, these incursions became an annual feature. Thus Damajirao Gaekwad implemented levying of tributes in large areas of Kathiawad. Afterwards from 1752 upto the close of the eighteenth century troops of the Peshwa and Gaekwad jointly collected the tributes from Kathiawad and Gujarat.

Thus the history of Gujarat in the early eighteenth century is made up of the varying standards of the English, Marathas and Mughals, struggling for dominion in this land.

CHAPTER II: GAEKWAD FAMILY, ITS ORIGIN AND BACKGROUND

Origin of the Gaekwad family:

One of the problem which makes it difficult to trace the early history of the Gaekwad family, is the absolute paucity of information. Several conflicting opinions are expressed in several Bakhars, but none of them can be said to be authentic and definite. The origin of the family is traced to the village of Davdi. One of the ancester of the Gaekwads, Nandaji, was Patil (incharge) of the fort at Bhor. Later records corroborate that Pilajirao Gaekwad was granted Davdi and Bhor in 'Inam' by Chatrapati Shahu and Gaekwad had purchased the Mokadami rights of these places[1].

1. Historical Selections from Baroda State Records, Baroda 1936, (hereinafter abbreviated as H.S.B.S.R.) Vol.I, letter No.6.
Deed bearing the seal of Shahu dated 3rd May 1728, granting Bhor and Davdi in Inam to Pilajirao.

Ibid. Letter No.10, dt.17.6.1728, Circular from Nizam-ul-Mulk, to all revenue officials, directing them that they should pay to Pilajirao Gaekwad the revenue of the village Davdi which has been granted to him in Inam.

Ibid. Letter No.7; dated 6.9.1728, from Peshwa to the Government officials of Prant Junar directing them to recognise the Mokadami rights of the village of Davdi purchased by Pilajirao.

Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.437.
Pilajirao purchased the Mokadami rights and Patiliki of Bhor in 1723, which was afterwards granted in Inam by the Chatrapati to Pilajirao in 1727. Davdi was also granted to him in Inam in the same year. The Mokadami of it was purchased in the following year.

Huzur Daftarkhana Baroda (hereinafter abbreviated as H.D.B.), File Nos.6, 14 & 19.

Reports of the association of the Gaekwads with Shivaji dates back to 1657. According to one report, one of the Gaekwad offered his daughter in marriage to Shivaji[1]. It is likely that Damajirao I might have belonged to this line of family. It is to be noted that this too is a mere surmise as there is no corroborative evidence for this.

Controversy over the following of Gaekwads:

Khanderao Dabhade was heading the raids in northern Gujarat and Kathiawad early in eighteenth century. Maratha conquests and infiltration in Gujarat is credited to the family of Dabhades. It is believed that Gaekwads served under Dabhades. Damajirao Gaekwad I made his fortune fighting under the banner of Khanderao Dabhade as his lieutenant[2].

It has been mentioned in 'Pant Pratinidhi Bakhar'[3] that in 1699 Damajirao Gaekwad I went to assist Shivaji's second son Rajaram. In reference to this, it could be presumed that in the beginning of his career Damajirao Gaekwad I might have been in the service of Rajaram as an independent military chief. From the available records of that period it is not

1. Gaekwad Yanchya Itihasache Sadhne (hereinafter abbreviated as G.Y.I.S.) cited on p.9. "According to Jedhe's Shakavali, p.181, a Gaekwad offered his daughter in marriage to Shivaji".

2. Dabhade Bakhar, pp. 1 & 50, cited in G.Y.I.S. p.2.

3. Pant Pratinidhi, Bakhar, p.39, cited in G.Y.I.S. p.8½

clear in which capacity Damajirao served Rajaram. As a matter of fact, simply going to assist Chatrapati does not mean that he was an independent chief. It is more likely that he might have gone as an officer of Khanderao Dabhade.

There are many such instances which give an idea regarding the Gaekwads subordinate position to Dabhades[1]. As late as in 1751 when Peshwa defeated Damajirao Gaekwad and claimed the half of the share in Gujarat conquests, Damajirao II simply avoided it by saying that Gujarat belonged to Umabai Dabhade, and that he was only her subordinate. He had further added that she had the right to decide the issue[2]. Though actual power was in Damajirao's hand in Gujarat at that time[3], still atleast for name sake Damajirao II showed his loyalty to Umabai Dabhade.

1. Mirat. p.504.

   Selections from Peshwa Daftar (hereinafter abbreviated as S.P.D.) Vol.XII, letter No.90.

   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.441.
   "The chief ground for quarrel seems to have been the relative position of the Gaekwad as the agent of Senapati, who had a right to collect all dues from Gujarat".

   Ibid. p.438.
   "....He was now representing the Senapati Trimbakrao Dabhade ..... From Songadh Pilajirao began to direct the operations of the three 'pagas' which had been entrusted to him, sometimes singly and sometimes in combination with Bande and Pawar as his master directed him ....".

2. Sardesai. Vol.II, p.310.

3. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.459.

Another controversial point to clarify is whether Gaekwads were the followers of Kadam Bande, as has been quoted by Forrest[1]. Available sources of that period indicate that Gaekwad followed Dabhades and not Kadam Bande.

In the beginning of the Gaekwad's career, both Pilajirao and Kantaji Kadam Bande were heading their raids in Gujarat, Kantaji as an officer of Chatrapati Shahu and Pilajirao as an officer of Senapati Khanderao Dabhade[2]. Whenever their interests clashed, they always had a fight between themselves[3]. If Pilajirao was working under him, he would not have behaved like that.

An instance will clarify it further, Khanderao Dabhade assigned Navapur[4] to Pilajirao to carry out his activities Kantaji Kadam Bande was already carrying out his activities from

1. Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other State Papers preserved in the Bombay Secretariat (Maratha Series) Bombay 1885 (hereinafter abbreviated as Selections M.S.) Vol.I, pp.678-679.

2. Irvine, Vol.II, p.184.
   H.S.B.S.R., Vol.I, Letter No.2.

3. Sardesai G.S., Marathi Riyasat, Madhya Vibhag, Bombay 1920 (hereinafter abbreviated as M.R.M.) p.243.
   Irvine, Vol.II, pp.183-184.
   Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.371.
   When Hamid Khan had given the right to levy the Chauth in Gujarat to both these leaders for their help offered to him, they did not act in cooperation and ultimately he had to assign separate territories to both to collect their share of Chauth.

4. M.R.M., P.242.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.438.

there. Kadam Bande did not allow Pilajirao to share his place of activities. Hence Pilajirao established himself at Songadh[1], a place 20 miles away from Navapur.

In 1721, Khanderao Dabhade presented Damajirao I as his associate to Chatrapati Shahu, who conferred upon him the title of 'Shamsher Bahadur' and made him 'second in command' to Senapati Dabhade for his valour shown in the battle of Balapur[2]. There are many examples of Senapati Dabhade ordering Gaekwad to march on certain places[3].

In view of the instances quoted above from the available literature, it is evident that Gaekwads were the followers of Dabhades. The confusion regarding their followings may be because both Pilajirao and Kantaji Kadam Bande were operating in Gujarat in the same period[4]. As Kantaji Kadam Bande was

1. Imperial Gazetteer of India (Baroda Section) Baroda 1908, (hereinafter abbreviated as Imp.Gaz.) p.9.
   M.R.M. p.242.
   Mirat. p.414.
2. M.R.M. p.180.
   Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.390.
   Gense and Banaji, Gaekwads of Baroda (hereinafter abbreviated as G.B.) Vol.I, p.2.
   Irvine, Vol.II, pp.47-50.
3. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, Letter No.1.
   Purandare Daftar, edited and compiled by Purandare K.V., Poona 1926(hereinafter abbreviated as Purandare Dafter) Vol.I, Letter No.78.
4. Irvine, Vol.II, p.190.
   M.R.M. p.343.
   Mirat. pp.444 & 453.

operating raids earlier than Pilajirao in Gujarat the conclusion might have been drawn that Pilajirao was working under Kantaji Kadam Bande.

It has been further reported by Forrest[1] that Pilajirao commanded a division in the battle of Panipat and died of fever shortly after his return in the village of Savli near Baroda. This statement seems to be incorrect. The battle of Panipat was fought in 1761, whereas Pilajirao died much earlier in 1732. It was Damajirao II who accompanied the Peshwa and not Pilajirao. Furthermore sources indicate that Pilajirao did not die of fever but was assassinated[2]. As such in the light of these two contradictory statements Gaekwad's subordination to Kadam Bande could not be accepted in the absence of support from other contemporary writings.

Dabhade and Gaekwad in Gujarat:

In the year 1699 Chatrapati Rajaram appointed Khanderao Dabhade to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi in Baglan[3]. Dabhade had fought along with veteran Dhanaji Jadhav[4] in the battle of Ratanpur at the time of the Maratha invasion of Gujarat

1. Selections M.S. Vol.I, pp.678& 679.
2. Mirat. p.419.
3. Gaz. B.S., Vol.I, p.433.
4. S.P.D. Vol.XII, Letter No.1.
   Letter from Dhanaji Jadhav to Chatrapati Shahu, giving an understanding on behalf of Dabhade that he would remain loyal to Chatrapati.

in 1706. Between 1706 and 1716 he carried out several raids into South Gujarat and Sorath[1]. The first Mulukgiri raid took place in 1711. Under Khanderao Dabhade and his lieutenant Damajirao Gaekwad I[2]. Afterwards these incursions became annual feature under Damajirao Gaekwad I who for many years subsisted his followers in Gujarat and Kathiawad.

Meanwhile in consequence of the changes at the Mughal court, Nizam-ul-Mulk was appointed the new viceroy in place of Daud Khan. This change dissolved the agreement, which was brought about between Chatrapati Shahu and Daud Khan.

Nizam had to face the depredations of Shahu's officers,[3] when he joined the Government of Gujarat. To suppress the ravages of the Marathas, Nizam sent an army. Maratha forces were camping near Bheema. In order to strengthen the Maratha forces Shahu sent another contingent of troops under Balaji

1. Mirat. p.333.
   Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.356.
   Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, pp.433-436.
2. G.Y.I.S.,p.10.
   Gaz. B.S., Vol.I, p.435.
3. Mirat. p.333.

Vishwanath. A battle was fought in the neighbourhood of Purandhar. Though Marathas had some success still they retreated and the peace was concluded[1]. The Marathas even then under the different leaders continued their depredations as usual.[2]

In the meantime, in a quick succession, viceroyalty of Gujarat, passed from Nizam to Sayyad Hussain Ali Khan. He directed his first expedition against the Marathas to open the communication between Surat and Burhanpur and to suppress the depredations of Khanderao Dabhade, Khanderao Dabhade, by that time had established a line of check posts along that route. He completely defeated the Mughals.[3] After getting the success, Khanderao Dabhade went to Satara to pay his respects to Chatrapati Shahu who raised him to the rank of Senapati in 1716 in recognition of his achievements.[4]

Several other Maratha leaders were also active in Gujarat. Sayyad Husain Ali Khan unable to meet the situation, settled

1. Grant Duff, Vol.I, pp.355-356.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. p.366.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.436.
4. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.366.
   Imp.Gaz., p.9.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.436.
   S.P.D. Vol.XII, Introduction, p.i.
   G.B., Vol.I, Introduction, p.xii.

terms with the Marathas. In 1717 Shahu appointed Shankaraji Malhar to conclude the terms of the treaty, which with some exceptions was conceded by the Mughal viceroy. The Emperor, however, did not approve the treaty. In consequence Sayyad Hussain Ali Khan made plans to proceed to Delhi and solicited help from Chatrapati Shahu. Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dabhade joined Hussain Ali Khan[1]. The viceroy promised that treaty would be ratified at Delhi and Marathas would get an authority to levy the tribute, which had been by that time instituted us a regular practice by the Marathas in Gujarat and Malwa. The viceroy made pretentions to the Emperor regarding the grant of the tribute to Marathas on the plea that the chiefs who had already levied contributions in those provinces would break in and plunder. He further pleaded that if Shahu could receive such an authority, he would, under these circumstances, be responsible for the protection and improvement of the territories[2].

Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dabhade remained at Delhi until the accession of Mohammad Shah in 1719. Though the formal orders had not been executed till then, yet the Emperor accepted the treaty with Marathas. Both Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dabhade leaving their agents in the Mughal court at

1. Mirat. p.386.
2. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.370.

Delhi, returned to Deccan. Shortly after returning from Delhi, Senapati Khanderao received the authority from Shahu to levy tribute in Gujarat[1] in addition to Baglan. The authority for the collection of tribute from Baglan had already been granted to him by Chatrapati Rajaram earlier[2].

During the period when Senapati Khanderao Dabhade was at Delhi, his lieutenant Damajirao Gaekwad I carried out his activities in Deccan and made annual incursions into the province of Gujarat to realise the dues.

As a result of the intrigues in the Mughal court at Delhi,Nizam had been nursing a plan to establish himself independent of the central authority. With this idea he marched towards Deccan with a strong force of 12000 men. His move was opposed by Sayyad brothers, who had the support of Chatrapati Shahu. Shahu sent Kanhoji Bhonsle, Haibatrao Nimbalkar and Shankaraji Malhar including Senapati Khanderao Dabhade to assist Sayyads. A battle was fought at Balapur in Berar. Though Sayyads were defeated yet Marathas came out of this action with credit.

On this occasion Senapati Khanderao had with him Damajirao Gaekwad I, who for his distinguished merit during this engagement obtained from the Chatrapati the title of Shamsher

1. Grant Duff, Vol.I, pp.372, 377, 378.
   Gaz. B.S., Vol.I, p.436.
2. Grant Duff., Vol.I, p.322.

Bahadur and the post of 'Second in Command' in 1721[1]. This has been stated earlier.

Controversy over initial status of Damajirao Gaekwad I:

Though Damajirao Gaekwad I established himself as a military officer but some sources[2] indicate that his original post was that of a confidential messenger (Jasud). It has further been stated in the same source that Damajirao Gaekwad I had begun to make raids with a detached force under him. Both the accounts are contradictory. Had Damajirao I been only a confidential messenger he could not have commanded an independent squadron. It may be possible that Damajirao Gaekwad I might have been misunderstood for Pilajirao who was in Dabhade's service initially as a confidential messenger.

1. Irvine, Vol.II, p.166.
   G.Y.I.S.,pp.10-11.
   Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.390
   Imp. Gaz. p.9.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.437.
2. G.Y.I.S., cited on p.7.
   "According to Shedgaonkar Bakhar, p.117, Damaji was a petty officer (Naik) over Jasuds under Dabhade. He was given the charge of Dabhade's banner and deputed to manage the affairs in Gujarat".

CHAPTER III: PILAJIRAO GAEKWAD

Pilajirao Gaekwad, a man of untiring bravery, rose to the status of a high military chief of the Maratha confederacy by his personal merits. Not only he made his own and his family's name illustrations in the land but greatly contributed in establishing the Maratha rule in Gujarat firmly.

Association with Dabhades:

It has been mentioned that Pilajirao had come on his own from his native place to serve under Khanderao Dabhade[1]. He started his career on a very modest post as a confidential messenger (Jasud) under Khanderao Dabhade[2]. Pilajirao showed his merit admirably well in carrying out the orders of his master which is evident by the following instance. On one occassion he had been sent by Khanderao Dabhade with a letter and an oral message to Tarabai, wife of Rajaram, to convince her that Shahu was the real son of Shambhaji. This was necessitated when Shahu was released from the Mughal captivity at Delhi and marched towards Deccan to claim the throne of Chatrapati of Satara. Tarabai did not believe Shahu to be the son of Shambhaji. Pilajirao conveyed the message of Khanderao Dabhade to Tarabai creditably well. Impressed by

1. Kavya Itihas Sangrah Patre Yadi, Letter No.408.
"Pilaji Gaekwad, the ancestor of the Gaekwads, inhabitant of Davdi, left his house owing to some reasons and went to live under Khanderao Dabhade".

2. Dabhade Bakhar, p.50, cited in G.Y.I.S. p.25.
"Khanderao Sena Khas Khel had in his service a man named Pilajirao Gaekwad as a Jasud".

his efficiency and merit Senapati Khanderao Dabhade gave him the command of a detachment of fifty horses[1].

Pilajirao's activities in Gujarat:

Pilajirao, very soon rose by his merit and received the command of some 300 horses more in the year 1709. He collected some men and made a raid into the Surat Attavisi[2] and sent the booty he got to Senapati Khanderao. Much impressed with his merit, Khanderao Dabhade bestowed upon him the leadership of a squardron in reward of his good services.[3]

Pilajirao found a site some 20 miles off Navapur, built a fort there in 1719 and named it Songadh[4]. Since then it

1. G.Y.I.S. pp.23,24 & 25.
   "Pilajirao acquitted himself admirably in carrying his masters orders. There upon Khanderao Dabhade seeing Pilajirao's intelligence and hardworking nature gave him command of 50 horses.....".

   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.437.

2. G.B. Vol.I, p.10, letter dt.1st Dec. 1719, from the Surat Factory Records.

   Mirat, pp.414 & 391.

   M.R.M., p.242.

   Commissariat, History of Gujarat, Pub. Bombay 1957 (hereinafter abbreviated as Comm.) Vol.II, p.401.

3. G.Y.I.S. p.26.

4. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.440.
   G.Y.I.S. p.28.
   M.R.M., p.242.
   Imp.Gaz. p.9.

   Irvine, Vol.II, Footnote p.182.
   ".....Soner, a village in Pargana Nokara of Sarkar Surat, 32 Kos from that Fort, Pilaji made an alliance with the zamindar to whom it belonged, and on a high hill near it erected a small fort and at the foot of the hill built a small walled town: Bombay Gazetteer, vii, 585, 169".

became his head quarters[1]. From there he made frequent incursions into the Surat Attavisi. Pilajirao had by then gained a considerable position. He was the leader of a band of 500 horses. This was the time when Damajirao I died in 1721 without a son to succeed him. Pilajirao was recommended by Senapati Khanderao Dabhade to fill up this post, which was accepted by the Chatrapati. Thus Pilajirao acquired the post of 'Second in command' in Senapati Khanderao Dabhade's army[2] with the title of 'Shamsher Bahadur'.

Senapati Khanderao Dabhade wanted that Pilajirao in association with Kantaji Kadam Bande and Udaji Pawar should establish the Maratha rule in Gujarat[3]. Pilajirao carried these orders earnestly and made successful incursions into Surat Attavisi and collected handsome tributes[4], while Kantaji Kadam Bande and Udaji Pawar could not carry out the

1. Huzur Fadnis Kachery, Baroda 1896 (hereinafter abbreviated as H.F.K.) Selection No.24, p.1.
   Gaekwad had the headquarter at Songadh, situated in Dang area. Out of the 473 villages in that area, Gaekwad had the jurisdiction over 53 villages. This is evident by the traditions followed afterwards by the chief of the Dang Pradesh who hoisted the Gaekwad's flag on the fortress of the capital of Dang on every Dashera day. The entire area is surrounded by forests. Inhabitants of this area are the Bhils.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.401.
   Gaz. B.S., p.438.
2. Ibid. Vol.I, p.437.
   Imp. Gaz. p.9.
   G.Y.I.S. p.27.
3. Ibid. p.29.
4. Mirat, p.391.
   M.R.M. pp.240-243.
   G.Y.I.S., p.29.

command of the Senapati. Pilajirao captured the fort of Nandod, built a fort at Rajpipla and established Maratha rule over there[1]. With the help of local tribes viz.Bhils, Kolis[2] and the local chiefs of Padra, Chhani and Bhayli, he could secure Baroda, from where he made incursions upto Kathiawad.

Collection of Gujarat Tributes by Pilajirao:

An authority to levy tributes in Gujarat and Baglan was given to Senapati Khanderao Dabhade by the Chatrapati[3], Khanderao and his lieutenents were carrying out this job in these

1.Mirat. p.414.
G.Y.I.S. p.29.

2.Forbes, Vol.III, pp.68 & 69.
Koli tribe: "These people maintaining in their fastness an armed independence; deem it no disgrace to be robbers and plunderers of all whom they can master, that venture to travel without their escort. This gives them many advantages over their neighbours and make them respected by the surrounding governments, by whom small bodies of coolies are frequently entertained as occasional escort and safeguards".

3.Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.322.
Year 1699, after collecting the tribute from the Deccan, "Rajaram kept Khanderao Dabhade in Baglan to collect, what they termed, the outstanding balances due to the Raja".

Ibid. pp.377 & 378.
"The particular quarters of the country assigned to the principal officers, which as far as they can now be assertained, were as follows: The Peshwa and Senapati charged with the command of a great proportion of the Raja's personal troops, were ordered to direct their attention to the general protection and defence of the territory. The former had the authority to levy the Government dues in Khandesh and part of the Bala Ghat, the latter was vested with similar authority in Baglan and a right to realise dues established by the usage from Gujarat".

provinces and collecting the tribute annually. Pilajirao was also among them to carry out the raids into Gujarat every year[1]. He was careful to cultivate goodwill of the local chiefs[2], who were also frustrated with the Mughal administration. This foresight helped Pilajirao afterwards in establishing himself at Baroda. As Senapati Khanderao Dabhade was not able to see Gujarat affairs personally, being preoccupied with the engagements in Deccan, Pilajirao was representing the Senapati in Gujarat.[3] Besides collecting the tributes, Pilajirao tried to establish his control over some parts in Gujarat as and when opportunity arose. He thus consolidated his position in the province considerably. He may thus be regarded as the founder of the fortunes of the family, the work of which was pioneered by his ancesters.

Attitude of Senapati Dabhade and Gaekwad towards Chatrapati during Maratha and Nizam conflict:

The affairs in the Mughal court at Delhi were in a confused state. Apprehensive of the power and influence of the Sayyad brothers, Emperor Mohammed Shah appointed Nizam as the viceroy of Gujarat with an intention to neutralise their influence. But Nizam being a shrewd statesman, well imagined the future of Mughal Empire in the absence of an able and strong

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.2.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.400.
   Irvine. Vol.II, p.166.
2. G.Y.I.S., p.29.
3. Irvine, Vol.II, p.194.

successor to the throne of Delhi. Nizam had a good hold over the Deccan provinces of Hyderabad and Berar including his personal jagir in Gujarat[1]. He started his move with a plan to establish an independent principality for himself. Mughal Emperor could sense Nizam's intentions and in accordance appointed another Mughal viceroy Sarbuland Khan in Gujarat. Nizam's advance towards Deccan alarmed Maratha confederacy too. Chatrapati Shahu sent letters to his chiefs, asking them to be on their guards and to help each other in case of a conflict against Nizam.[2]

The Chatrapati had commanded Senapati Khanderao Dabhade to send his troops and to persuade Pilajirao Gaekwad to join him in case of a battle against Nizam in Deccan. But it seemed that Khanderao Dabhade did not obey Chatrapati in sending the required help.[3] Afterwards also, when peace was restored between Nizam and Chatrapati, it was found that Senapati

1. Comm. Vol.II, p.408.
   "Before leaving the frontiers of Gujarat for Delhi Nizam appointed his uncle Hamid Khan as deputy and had ordered the very fertile pargana of Broach, Jambusar, Amod and Dholka to be included in his own jagir".

2. S.P.D., Vol.XII, letter No.14.

3. S.P.D., Vol.XII, letter No.7

   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.1 dated 17.2.1724.

Khanderao Dabhade was disturbing Nizam's jagir in Gujarat, for which Shahu issued orders not to create disturbances in the vicinity.[1]

Khanderao Dabhade and Pilajirao Gaekwad[2] were discontended with Peshwa's supremacy and hence were creating trouble to Chatrapati Shahu as he was supporting Peshwa[3]. From Shivaji's times, Senapati's post was of equal importance as that of Peshwa. But in course of time when Shahu gave all powers to Peshwa and made the post hereditary, Peshwa became all powerful. This diminished the powers of Senapati. Actually this was the origin of trouble[4], as Senapati could not reconcile to this situation. This led to the rivalry between the two most important members of the Maratha Government.

With this background it was obvious that, though in the service of Chatrapati, Senapati Dabhade was behaving in an

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.4, dt.8.10.1726.
   S.P.D. Vol.X, letter No.75.
2. Ibid. Vol.XI, letter No.4, dt.15.8.1720.
3. Ibid. letter Nos. 2,3,4 & 5.
   Ibid. Vol.XXXI, letter No.127.
   Ibid. Vol.X, letter Nos. 72, 72B.
4. Ibid. Vol.XII, (Introduction)
   "The rivalry between the two families of Dabhade and Peshwa commenced in 1708 when Shahu deprived Dabhade and his estate and conferred it on the Peshwa. Dabhade became discontended and rebellious and Shahu ordered his chastisement in 1720, if accommodation was not possible".

independent manner with his followers, the first among them was Pilajirao Gaekwad[1]. Like his master, Pilajirao Gaekwad too behaved arrogantly with Peshwa. When Pilajirao had been asked to accompany on an expedition to Khandesh[2] it is not certain whether he obeyed those orders willingly or was forced to do so, but Pilajirao was there to assist Peshwa[3].

Pilajirao Gaekwad and Mughal viceroys of Gujarat:

Mughal viceroys of the province were trying hard to check the Maratha raids, but had not been able to do so. When they failed to check these raids, they thought of settling the affairs peacefully by seeking the cooperation of Marathas. Earlier Sayyad Hussain Ali Khan had joined hands with Marathas to quieten their activities.

In the meantime lot of changes had occurred at the Imperial court at Delhi, which affected the Gujarat politics considerably[4]. As stated earlier Nizam was appointed in place of Sayyad Hussain Ali Khan, the viceroy of the province. Nizam sent his uncle, Hamid Khan as his deputy and he decided

1. Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.441.
2. Purandare Dafter, vol.I, Letter No.78, dt.17.11.1726. M.R.M., p.205.
3. Ibid. p.213.
4. Irvine, p.176.

to join later. But in a quick succession, Sarbuland Khan was appointed viceroy of the province[1] in place of Nizam. This new viceroy also sent his deputy, Shujat Khan, to take the office, and he himself decided to proceed later.

Battle of Adas:

The change of viceroys created lot of confusion, as the deputy of Nizam, Hamid Khan decided not to relinguish the office but to resist. In order to strengthen himself, Hamid Khan asked the assistances of Maratha leader Kantaji Kadam Bande, who was around Dohad at that time, promising him the Chauth of Gujarat in return of his assistance[2].

These allies defeated Shujat Khan at Kapadvanj[3]. Rustam Ali Khan, the Governor of Surat took up arms to avenge his brother Shujat Khan's defeat. He made truce with Pilajirao Gaekwad, who was for sometime past conducting the guerilla warfare in Surat Attavisi[4]. With the help of this Maratha ally, Rustam Ali fought a battle on the banks of Mahi river at Adas in 1724 and worsted Hamid Khan. Immediately after this

1. Comm. Vol.II, p.410.
2. Mirat. p.419.
   Grant Duff., Vol.I, pp.403-404.
   M.R.M. p.243.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.410.
3. M.R.M. p.243.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.439.
4. Grant Duff., =Vol.I, p.404.
   M.R.M. p.243.
   Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, p.439.

encounter Hamid Khan could induce Pilajirao to assist his side on the promise of sharing half the Chauth of the province with Kantaji Kadam Bande, the whole of which was offered earlier to Kantaji Kadam Bande. This alliance resulted in the victory of Hamid Khan over Rustom Ali.[1]

It is evident by the accounts given by Irvine as well as Gazetter of Baroda State that Pilajirao treacherously changed sides. But Mirat-i-Ahmadi a contemporary source had not mentioned that Pilajirao changed the sides[2]. In support to the account given by Mirat-i-Ahmedi, it is essential to go though the activities of Pilajirao in the vicinity of Rustom Ali Khan's jurisdiction.

1. Mirat. p.427, [illegible].

   Comm. Vol.II, p.410.

   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.440.

   Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.404.

2. Mirat. p.419[illegible]. It is simply written that Hamid Khan had Maratha allies, Kantaji and Pilajirao.

   G.B., Vol.II, p.1, letter dt.10th Nov.1724. It also didnot mention that Rustam Ali was supported by Pilajirao. It only mentioned that Hamid Khan's forces would be joined by Marathas, among whom Pilajirao and Kantaji were the main.

It has been stated that from the very beginning of his career, Pilajirao was making incursions into Surat Attavisi supported by Senapati Dabhade[1]. Rustam Ali Khan and Pilajirao had several fights earlier during these incursions. Rustam Ali Khan could gain a little advantage sometimes over Pilajirao. Previous to this also Pilajirao had defeated the Mughal Governor of Surat, Momin Khan, after which his incursions to levy the tribute became more regular. Till then Pilajirao Gaekwad had entered Gujarat by crossing the river Narbada near the famous fort of Baba Piara. In 1720 Pilajirao made an effective incursion into the northern part of Gujarat and obtained a portion of Chauth of that place. He took advantage of the situation prevailing at that time and cultivated the friendship with the local chiefs[2], who by the knowledge of the area contributed greatly in directing his incursions as far as the river Mahi.

The usual practice during that period was to grant specific districts in 'Saranjam' for a fixed period to different officials in the Mughal Empire for the support of their troops. These officers were more on the footing of

1. Mirat. pp.391 & 414.
2. Ibid. p.492.
   The local chiefs were of Padra, Chhani, Bhayali and the local chiefs of Kolis and Bhils tribes.

of feudatories rather than Jagirdars. As the central authority was weak, these officers of the empire, were behaving in an independent manner. They didnot feel responsibility for a good administration. The main emphasis was on collection of tribetes. The officers harassed the local population. This was the reason, the local populace was discontended and favoured Pilajirao Gaekwad who made friendship with them. When Sarbuland Khan was appointed viceroy, the political and social conditions prevailing in the province were not satisfactory. Moreover the military posts were unable to function effectively as before.[1] Under such circumstances the smaller chiefs did not enjoy respectable authority. They thought if Marathas could establish themselves in the province they (smaller chiefs) might be able to live respectfully and could enjoy more freedom. It was presumed that under the Marathas, the government would stabilise and they would be able to save their subjects from the depredations of the different military leaders, who used to raid the country from time to time.

Pilajirao made an alliance with the Raja of Rajpipla and could influence him so much that he allowed him to built a fort in his territory[2]. Pilajirao, though alowly but steadily was making his position stronger[3] in the province with the farsighted idea of establishing a principality for himself in

1. Comm. Vol.II, p.503.
2. Mirat. p.414.
3. Ibid.

the absence of an effective rule in Gujarat. As such it suited Pilajirao to meet the overtures of Hamid Khan favourably in order to strengthen his own position. Nizam was trying to establish his independence, and Pilajirao too had been nursing the same idea,thus both had the same ideals. Pilajirao had Rustam Ali Khan in his way. He thought if Rustam Ali Khan established in the province, his task would be much difficult.

Grant of Chauth[1] to Kantaji Kadam Bande and Pilajirao Gaekwad by the Mughal governor was an indication of a decrease of Mughal authority and establishment of the Marathas hold in the province. The division of Chauth to the leaders of the different groups led to disputes between the rival Maratha chiefs, which culminated in the struggle at Khambhat (Cambay)[2] Hamid Khan in order to pacify his allies had to interfere. He apportioned the districts north of the river Mahi to Kantaji Kadam Bande and those south of that river viz. Baroda, Nandod, Champaner, Broach and Surat to Pilajirao. After getting the formal orders from Hamid Khan for collection of Chauth, Pilajirao and Kantaji Kadam Bande carried out their campaign separately to collect the tribute. At the end of the year, they went back to their respective places viz. Pilajirao to Songadh and

1. Mirat. p.419.
   M.R.M. p.243.
2. Grant Duff, vol.I, p.405.

Kantaji Kadam Bande to Khandesh. Despite of Hamid Khan having settled the dispute regarding collection of Chauth between the two chiefs still these Maratha chiefs extracted extra money by way of tribute called 'Khandani'.[1]

In the meantime Sarbuland Khan, himself, proceeded from Delhi to Gujarat, when he found his deputy was unable to oust Hamid Khan and the Marathas. He had already sent an advance party under his son Khanzad Khan, who had reached earlier in the neighbourhood of Ahmedabad, to deal with Hamid Khan's allies Pilajirao and Kantaji Kadam Bande[2]. The party had the first encounter at Sojitra and then at Kapadvanj, where Maratha leaders were worsted and had to retreat across Mahi. The new viceroy had already made his entry into Ahmedabad in Dec. 1725.[3] He appointed his officers at different places. Kantaji and Pilajirao continued to collect tribute during the remainder of the season, inspite of the set back they received. Druing the same time two more parties from Satara under Antaji and Bhaskar, arrived through Idar to Vadnagar in Gujarat to collect the tribute.

1. Khandani means safety money.
2. Mirat. pp. 443 & 445.
   Irvine, Vol.II, p.191.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.424.
3. Mirat p. 439.
   Irvine, vol.II, p.191.

Kantaji Kadam Bande and Pilajirao Gaekwad jointly could not succeed against the new viceroy. Thus they resolved to separate their forces and started Guerilla warfare. Kantaji proceeded by way of Godhra to Idar and thence to Vadnagar, while Pilajirao started for Baroda, Khambhat (Cambay) and Surat in 1726. This time they showed their willingness to come to terms with the new Mughal viceroy Sarbuland Khan. He was equally fed up to continue the indefinite warfare with the different bands of the Marathas. An agreement was made with Kantaji Kadam Bande and Pilajirao for the grant of Chauth of the province to them.[1]

Conflicts between Peshwa and Senapati Dabhade - battle of Dabhoi:

Peshwa Bajirao came to know about the grant of Chauth to Pilajirao Gaekwad and Kantaji Kadam Bande by the Mughal viceroy. He sent his agent Udaji Pawar to collect the tribute. The authority to levy the tribute in Gujarat had been given to Senapati Khanderao Dabhade earlier by Shahu. Pilajirao was acting on Senapati Dabhade's behalf and on this ground he exerted himself to collect the tribute. As a result both the parties met at Baroda and Udaji Pawar had to retreat. He took shelter at Dabhoi[2]. At this juncture Kantaji

1. Mirat. p.445.

2. S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter No.12.

joined Pilajirao and laid the siege of Dabhoi. Pawar sought the help of Sarbuland Khan and a battle was fought near Watrak.[1] In this conflict a force under Krishna, adopted son of Kantaji Kadam Bande, had to retreat to Baroda. Hearing this Kantaji and Pilajirao raised the siege of Dabhoi and attacked the Viceroy's party near Nadiad on their way to Baroda. Fresh terms were offered and again agreement was made regarding the Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to Pilajirao and Kantaji Kadam Bande.[2] Finally Udaji Pawar had to leave Dabhoi and Pilajirao occupied Dabhoi and Baroda[3].

In the year 1727, once again Chimnaji, the brother of Peshwa Bajirao raided Gujarat and collected the Khandani[4]. Inspite of Sarbuland Khan's repeated requests to the Mughal Emperor at Delhi, he could not get proper assistance to meet the Maratha onslaught. As a result he had to bow down to Peshwa Bajirao's overtures for a settlement, to save the province from the depredations of the other Maratha chiefs. Bajirao offered to protect the province from outside attacks

1. Mirat. p.451.
2. Ibid. p.452.
3. Ibid. pp.450-453.
4. Ibid. p.455.
   Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.408.
   S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter Nos. 27 & 28.

on a bargain of grant of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to him. This decision of Sarbuland Khan granting Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to Bajirao[1] affected him adversely. The Mughal court blamed him for this settlement with the Marathas. The Emperor appointed a new viceroy Abhai Singh in his place. Another effect of grant of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to Bajirao resulted in creating a more specific split amongst the other Maratha chiefs. Senapati Dabhade did not like the interference of Peshwa Bajirao in his area of jurisdiction. The interest of other leaders viz. Pilajirao, Kantaji Kadam Bande, Pawars and many other Maratha chiefs who were operating in Gujarat was also affected by this settlement. A few of the Peshwa's trusted officers also alienated and joined Dabhade[2]. This led to constant skirmishes with the Peshwa and these Maratha chiefs somewhere or the other[3]. Under these circumstances Peshwa Bajirao could well imagine the possibility of a future conflict with Dabhade any time. Shahu wanted to settle the

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.33.
2. Ibid. Letter No.38.
3. S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter No.32 dt.22.5.1729.
   Ibid. letter No.33, 34 & 44.
   Grand Duff, vol.I, p.419.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.443-444.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I. letter No.39.
   Chimnaji Appa gives the details, that though he had the sanads, but Pilajirao had already collected the dues and was hindering his activities.

differences between these chiefs[1] but could not do so effectively.[2]

Nizam took advantage of this conflict between Bajirao Peshwa and other Maratha chiefs of the confederacy. He joined hands with Senapati Dabhade and the other dissatisfied Maratha chiefs. Peshwa Bajirao was fully aware of his enmity with Dabhade. When he came to know of Nizam entering the conflict Peshwa got very much alarmed.

Both the parties viz. Dabhade and his supporters on one side and Peshwa and his followers on the other side justified that they wanted to safeguard the interest of the Chatrapati. Nizam had already entered into an alliance with the Raja of Kolhapur. Further more Senapati Dabhade and his partisan's alliance with Nizam made him to move to Deccan[3]. He justified

1. S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter Nos.35 & 37.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, Letter No.3
   Sardesai, Vol.I, pp.124-125.
   G.B., Vol.I, pp.1-10.
2. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter Nos. 36 & 40.
3. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.419.
   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.436.
   Selections from the Peshwa Daftar; New Series Edited by P.M.Joshi (hereinafter abbreviated as S.P.D.J.) Vol.I, letter No.9.

his movement to Deccan on the ground that he wanted to protect the division of Maratha Sovereignty of Satara with the Raja of Kolhapur. Trimbakrao Dabhade too proceeded to Deccan, justifying his movement to protect the authority of Chatrapati which was being gradually encroached by the Peshwa. He was being supported in this conflict by Pilajirao Gaekwad, Kantaji Kadam Bande, Udaji Pawar, Anandrao Pawar and many other Maratha chiefs.

An advance party of Peshwa under Avji Kavde while proceeding to Deccan had an encounter with the troops of Damajirao Gaekwad, son of Pilajirao, soon after crossing the Narbada. But that party was defeated.Bajirao was not discouraged with this setback. On the contrary it gave him the opportunity to launch another attack immediately. This had the desired effect. Bajirao got the complete victory though well defended by Trimbakrao Dabhade's party. This battle took place between Baroda and Dabhoi at Bhilapur in Gujarat round about the 1st April 1731.[1] Trimbakrao Dabhade was slain along with many distinguished Maratha chiefs. Pilajirao was badly wounded but was saved.

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter Nos.12 & 13.
   S.P.D.J. Vol.I, letter No.9
   Ibid. Vol.XII, letter No.46.
   M.R.M. pp.251-252.
   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.128.
   G.B. Vol.I, p.11, letter dt. April 1731.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.444.

It has been stated that Pilajirao Gaekwad had persuaded Senapati Trimbakrao Dabhade not to quarrel with Peshwa[1]. This account seems to be incorrect in view of Pilajirao's own ambitious interests in Gujarat which had been put to an end by the alliance with Mughal viceroy and Peshwa. Pilajirao had already established his good hold over many places in Gujarat.

After effects of the battle of Dabhoi and assassination of Pilajirao Gaekwad:

After the battle of Dabhoi Pilajirao Gaekwad reached Songadh safely[2]. A treaty was concluded[3] in the month of August 1731 between the two parties. At the instance of Shahu, Peshwa adopted all means of conciliation in his power. Yeshwantrao Dabhade was appointed Senapati. He being the minor, Pilajirao was nominated as his Mutaliq (deputy) with the additional honour of getting the title of Sena Khas Khel[4]. It came to be the distinctive title of Gaekwads and each successive chief of the Gaekwad house had to purchase the investiture of this title from the Poona Durbar before ascending the throne.

1. G.Y.I.S. p.70.
2. G.B. Vol.I, letter dt. 7th April 1731.
3. Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.421.
4. Gaekwad Gharanycha va Itar Povade, p.3.
   Bapat, N.V., Pahile Bajirao Saheb Peshwe, p.80.

Yeshwantrao Dabhade was allowed to collect the Chauth from Gujarat on the condition that henceforth half the revenues were to go to Chatrapati Shahu through the Peshwa and that additional conquests of tributary states were likewise to be accounted for.[1]

The results of this settlements brought the maximum advantage to Pilajirao Gaekwad. After the negotiations Pilajirao returned to Gujarat with the additional resources of Senapati at his disposal. He was holding Baroda, Songadh and Dabhoi.[2] Bhils and Kolis of the country were his allies. He had good hold over other zamindars and other small Rajas of the area.

Abhai Singh, the Mughal viceroy of the province, was not able to control the rising power of Pilajirao[3], like his predecessors. He planned a plot against Pilajirao. Abhai Singh pretended to enter into a final agreement with Pilajirao, sent some of his emissaries to settle the preliminaries. The meeting was fixed at Dakor a well known village in the district of Thasra.[4] Here during the talks, one of them pretending to

1. Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.422.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.445.
2. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.421.
3. Ibid. p.425.
   Mirat. p.491.
4. Ibid.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.443.
   Dakor is a large town in Thasra Taluka of the Kaira District.

whisper something in Pilajirao's ear, stabbed him. It happened in the month of March 1732[1] thus bringing an abrupt end of Pilajirao's career.

The death of Pilajirao could not bring about the intended advantages, what Mughal viceroy thought of. Instead, Pilajirao's followers, friends and allies rose against the viceroy everywhere, and AbhaiSingh was forced to return to Jodhpur to protect his own dominions leaving RatanSingh Bhandari at Ahmedabad as his deputy.

Role of Pilajirao Gaekwad in establishing Gaekwad Rule in Gujrat:

Pilajirao Gaekwad is considered to be the main architect in the establishment of the Maratha rule in Gujarat. Born in

1. Mirat. p.491.
   Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.425.
   Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, p.445.
   G.B. Vol.I, p.XII (Introduction)
   H.S.B.S.R., Vol.I, letter No.15, dt.14.4.1732.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.445.
   Cited a letter of Maharaja Abhai Singh about the murder of Pilajirao Gaekwad, dated 26th March 1732. Maharaja wrote to Amarsingh, his Vakil at the court of Delhi, to bring this and other news to the notice of the powerful Nawab Khan Dauran. This letter gives the details of what took place before and after that event. It states that Maharaja wanted Pilajirao to vacate Dabhoi and Baroda previously which were Mughal posts. But Pilajirao declared that Baroda belonged to his chief the Senapati Dabhade, and the previous three Mughal Viceroys were obliged to pay Chauth. Maharaja continued further that without doing away with Pilajirao he cannot take Baroda. When Pilajirao was at Dakor, in order to make him halt there, the Viceroy sent emissaries to enter into negotiations with Pilajirao and they effected Pilajirao's murder. The letter further added that Maharaja was now marching towards Baroda. All this news was to be conveyed to the Emperor.

1677, he came from an ordinary family from a village Davdi and joined as confidential messenger with Khanderao Dabhade. His abilities can be judged from the fact that starting from a very small post under ~~ﻳﻪﻩ~~ Senapati Khanderao Dabhade, he rose to the status of a high military chief of the Maratha confederacy. He fought under the banner of Senapati Dabhade and by showing extraordinary courage in the wars, he could achieve the independent command of a squadron and later was elevated to 'Second in Command' in Senapati Khanderao Dabhade's army. Just a year before his assasination in 1732, he was granted the title of Sena Khas Khel, an exclusive military honour and high position among the Maratha chiefs.

His notable achievement during his tenure was the establishment of a headquarter at Songadh for his activities in Gujarat. Being assigned by Senapati Khanderao Dabhade to collect tributes of Gujarat, he carried out most efficiently the job from his base at Songadh where he had built a fortress and had a strong hold on about 53 villages out of 473 villages in Dang area. He took advantage of the weakening power of the Mughal Emperor and ambitions of the viceroys of Gujarat who wanted to become independent from Mughal rule. By his diplomacy and rising power Pilajirao could convince Mughal viceroys and could secure the grant of Chauth from them.

He had an ambition and an insight for developing the Gaekwad rule in Gujarat for his successors. He never antagonised the local inhabitants. By creating friendship and goodwill among the local chiefs he could secure cooperation from them. The local chiefs being acquainted with the neighbouring areas helped Pilajirao to establish his territorial gains also.

Pilajirao is being credited for his ability to become the real power in Gujarat. The increasing power of Bajirao Peshwa was a source of discontent to Senapati Khanderao Dabhade. Peshwa's interference in Gujarat affairs culminating in a battle at Dabhoi in 1731 brought maximum benefit to Pilajirao. Under the name of Senapati Yashwantrao Dabhade he became the sole authority in Gujarat, the Senapati's overlordship remained for name's sake only.

The rising power of Pilajirao caused apprehensions to Mughal ruler and thus by treacherous plot of Abhai Singh the assassination of Pilajirao in 1732 brought the end of this great military chief who had the great comtribution in the establishment of Maratha rule in Gujarat.

Pilajirao had eight sons from his three wifes, Manubai, Satibai and Reubai. The seniormost wife Manubai was the daughter of a chief of Talegaon. His eldest son, Sayajirao was killed during action in the battle of Dabhoi in 1731.

Damajirao II, the next, took the charge of establishing the rule in Gujarat which his father cherished during his life time. His other sons were Khanderao,[1] Prataprao, Yeshwantrao, Anandrao, Kaloji Jaisingrao. Pilajirao granted the jagir of Kadi to his son Khanderao and Prataprao was given a jagir in Khandesh.

1. Appendix II.

CHAPTER IV: DAMAJIRAO GAEKWAD II

Early discomfiture:

The setback, caused by the treacherous assasination of Pilajirao by Mughal Viceroy Abhai Singh, was temporary. Damajirao, the eldest son and the worthy successor of Pilajirao, after performing the rituals of his father, settled first at Karnali[1] and then came to Songadh to take the revenge of the death of his father. The Gaekwad family, strongly supported by Umabai Dabhade[2], gathered at Songadh. Kantaji Kadam Bande also joined them. An attack was made on Ahmedabad. It was met with partial success. Viceroy Abhai Singh agreed to conclude a peace with them. Jawan Mard Khan Babi was sent to Umabai Dabhade for the negotiation for the peace. Terms were settled and the Mughals yielded to pay a subsidy of a sum rupees eighty thousand as Khandani and continuation of the collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi of the province as before.[3]

1. Karnali is situated near Rajpipla.
2. Mirat. pp.504-505.

   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.310.

   Umabai Dabhade: The wife of the late Senapati Khanderao Dabhade had wielded great influence in politics, from 1730 onwards right upto her death in 1753. Even in her husbands lifetime, and after his death in 1729, she strove hard to maintain her rights in Gujarat and to uphold the military power of Dabhades against the Peshwa. After the battle of Dabhoi in 1731, during the next 20 years, the Gaekwads viz. Pilajirao and Damajirao II served Umabai ably as her lieutenants in Gujarat. Though actual power was in Damajirao's hand, yet he remained loyal to her till her death in 1753.
3. Mirat. p.505.

   Comm. Vol.II, p.441.

Recapture of Baroda:

After the assassination of Pilajirao, Abhai Singh took advantage of the situation, marched towards Baroda and captured it in 1732. He handed over the charge of Baroda to Sher Khan Babi[1]. But this arrangement could not last for more than two years. The Desai of Padra,[2] an old ally of Pilajirao sent message to Mahadji, brother of Pilajirao, who held the pargana of Jambusar, for making an attack on Baroda. For this purpose Damajirao II also sent help from Songadh. Taking advantage of Sher Khan Babi's absence from Baroda, who had gone to his personal jagir, at Balasinor, Mahadji Gaekwad laid the siege of Baroda. Sher Khan Babi atonce returned to Baroda and asked the viceroy to send help to him to meet the Maratha attack. But as soon as he crossed the river Mahi, his advance was checked by the Marathas by a blockade. Sher Khan Babi

1. Appendix I.

2. Mirat. p.492.
Dala was the Desai of Padra. He early allied himself with the rising power of Pilajirao against muslims.When Baroda was taken by viceroy in 1732 he desired to take the management of Baroda. By giving security of powerful 'Patawats' (Mughal officers) vis. Momin Khan, Sardar Mohammed Khan, Ghorni, Sher Khan, Jawan Mard Khan Babi Sayyed Fayas Khan, Maharaja Abhai Singh gave him assurance for it but later he broke the promise with him. Dala came to know about the plot of Abhai Singh who wanted to capture him. So he had to abandon the place secretly to secure his safe escape to his place.

had to retreat though he fought bravely. Momin Khan I[1], who had been directed by the viceroy's deputy to proceed to Baroda to help Sher Khan, could not arrive in time. Moreover when he came to know about the retreat of Sher Khan Babi, he returned to Khambhat (Cambay). The Marathas pressed the siege of Baroda with still more vigour. Mughal garrison in the fort finding themselves helpless submitted and handed over the fort and the town of Baroda to the Marathas, in 1734[2]. From this time Baroda remained in the hands of the Gaekwads till the merger of the state in the Indian Republic.

After the recapture of Baroda, Damajirao II expanded his activities in eastern part of Gujarat. He boldly pushed into the neighbourhood of Jodhpur after reducing the eastern Gujarat. When Abhai Singh came to know about the advance of Damajirao towards Jodhpur he became perturbed about the safety of his own dominions. He left for his capital leaving Ratan Singh Bhandari as his deputy in Gujarat.

1. Momin Khan I:
   Mirza Abdul Hussain Momin Khan Dehlavi was a persian noble. He was the Governor of Surat in the years 1723 and 1724. Later he became Diwan of Gujarat from 1724 to 1727. His son in law Mirza Mohammad Nazm-i-Sani who was given the title of Momin Khan I Nazmuddaullah was the governor of Khambhat (Cambay) from 1730 to 1736. Later on he became the Viceroy of Gujarat from 1736 to 1743. He reamined on this post till his death in 1743.

2. Mirat. p.513.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.444.
   Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.227.

Consolidation of powers of Damajirao Gaekwad II:

Umabai Dabhade appointed Damajirao II as her agent in Gujarat in succession to his father Pilajirao. In addition to his own share, she authorised him the collection of tribute from the parganas north of Mahi[1], which were earlier assigned to Kantaji Kadam Bande. Damajirao II assigned this function to his deputy, Rangoji. Authority to collect tribute from the areas under jurisdiction of Kantaji Kadam Bande led to a conflict with Kantaji Kadam Bande and an engagement took place at the battle field of Anand Mogri[2], where Rangoji defeated Kadam Bande. Later Kadam Bande joined the Peshwa's side and invaded northern Gujarat along with Malharrao Holkar. But they had to return from Vadnagar for the fear of meeting an attack from the armies of Damajirao's brother Prataprao Gaekwad, and his general Devaji Takpir. Armies of both were in the neighbourhood of Dholka at that time and had gained sufficient success and had ravaged the northern parts of Gujarat. They had levied tribute in Sorath, Kathiawad and Gohilwad.[3]

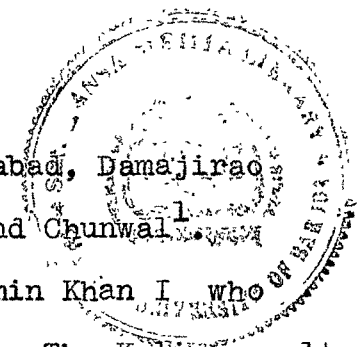
During this time Ratan Singh Bhandari appointed a Marwari officer to look the affairs at Virangam[4], in place of Sher Khan Babi. Damajirao II was in the neighbourhood of Dholka.

1. Mirat. p.530.
2. Ibid. p.529
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.21.
3. Mirat. p.535.
4. Ibid. p.532.

Desai of Viramgam didnot like the idea of the appointment of a Marwari. He sent message to Damajirao II to take possession of Viramgam, who promptly took action and could secure the possession of the fort. After its occupation, Damajirao II left his officers and some foree for their defence. He, himself, went to Sorath for realisation of dues by way of Khandani. Damajirao II afterwards returned to Songadh and left Rangoji with a garrison to look after his affairs and settle the Chauth of Ahmedabad with Ratan Singh Bhandari. After the departure of Damajirao II, Rangoji tried to realise the dues but Ratan Singh Bhandari did not allow him to do so. He inflicted a defeat on Rangoji in 1735 and atonce laid the seege of Viramgam.[1] On getting the news of Prataprao's arrival in Gujarat, Bhandari abandoned the seege of Viramgam and returned to Ahmedabad. Thus Viramgam which commanded the road to peninsula came under Maratha power.[2]

Rangoji was not able to realise the dues and settle the tributes from Ahmedabad. But Prataprao Gaekwad could settle with Ratan Singh Bhandari the Chauth of Ahmedabad. He then attached his officers for that purpose there for the collection of Chauth.

1. Mirat. p.532.
2. Ibid. p.531.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.451.



After establishing his hold on Ahmedabad, Damajirao suppressed the revolt of Kolis of Patah and Chunwal.[1] This he could achieve with the help of Momin Khan I who deputed Fidauddin Khan for the assistance. The Kolis revolt was suppressed in 1738 while Damajirao was returning from the annual Mulukgiri campaign in Kathiawad.

Revenue settlement between Damajirao II and the Nawab of Surat:

Earlier when Marathas were not so powerful in districts of Surat, Broach and Khambhat (Cambay) the revenue of all these places was collected by the Nawab of Surat. When Rustam Ali Khan, the Governor of Surat was killed in the battle by Hamid Khan in 1725, Pilajirao Gaekwad got a footing in these parganas. During the reign of Sohrab Khan[2], son of Rustam Ali Khan, Pilajirao made incursions very frequently in these parganas. Pilajirao's son Damajirao also made collections of tribute from these places. These tributes were not paid regularly. These were realised any time of the year depending

1. Mirat. Vol.II, p.585.
   Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, p.448.

2. After Rustam Ali Khan, the governorship of Surat went to his son Sohrab Khan in 1725. In 1732 Tegbakt Khan and Mulla Mohammed Ali took the fort from him. Sohrab Khan escaped and crossed over by sea to Bhavnagar. Tegbakt Khan established himself as independent Nawab of Surat from 1733-1746. In 1734 he entered into a settlement with Damajirao II about the latter's claims on the Surat Attavisi.

on the convenience of the collector. The merchants were much harrased by these irregular levies. Thus an agreement was made between Damajirao and Tegbakt Khan, the Killedar, supported by the merchants of the town. Later Tegbakt Khan displaced Sohrab Khan from the castle of Surat and established himself as independent Nawab of Surat . At that time Gaekwad was collecting the Maratha tributes[1] from all these parganas. Peshwa was not at all involved in it. As both Damajirao and Tegbakt Khan were on friendly terms, they had no dispute over the collection of revenues. As a result of this goodwill an agreement was made between them that the Gaekwad would pay a certain fixed sum to the Nawab from each pargana which was under the jurisdiction of Damajirao besides the 'Amil Sukhadi' (customary fees). This brought Tegbakt Khan a considerable yearly income and Damajirao retained his hold over the territories

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.22.
Letter from Raja Shahu to the Mughal authorities to the effect that Chauth and Sardeshmukhi on the sea custom, at Surat is assigned to the Jagirdari of the fort of Raigarh and the land revenues are assigned to the Gaekwad.

which he possessed. This settlement was made in the year 1734.[1]

Damajirao's share in Broach

Damajirao's next venture was the expedition over Broach, which his father Pilajirao very much wanted to occupy. In the year 1741 Damajirao laid a siege of Broach.[2] It was a town of much importance and so Damajirao wanted to secure its possession. Broach was in the jagir of Nizam and was protected by Nek Alam Khan II who was the governor of the pargana. The Maratha siege lasted for three months. The strong natural position of the fort made it formidable for attacks. Meanwhile Nizam sent his agent to negotiate a settlement with Damajirao II. The latter in order to maintain good terms with Nizam, lifted the siege[3] and a settlement was made by which Gaekwad got three fifth share in the revenues and customs of Broach and

1. G.B. Vol.I, p.21, letter dt.28.10.1735.
"The Ganims and the Government are come to terms for the division of the out rents of the lands, and it is said the Governor has accepted of a less sum than they paid him last year".

Ibid.pp.16-17.
Treaty between Nawab Tegbakt Khan of Surat and Damajirao. Transalae of a paper from Nawab Hafizuddin(who was the Nawab of Surat from 1763 to 1769) respecting the Surat pargana reviewed dated 27th April 1785. "....In the settling of this business there was not any writing passed between them, but an order sent to the different parganas that, agreeable thereto, the sums were yearly to be paid to the Nawab of Surat. By the favour of God, till now (1785) the above agreement which was made in the year 1147, Hijri answering to year 1734 of the Christian era) thereby fifty years ago had been duly attended to".

2. Mirat. p. 602.
Comm. Vol.II,pp.474-475.

3. Mirat. p.602.

half the revenues to Jambusar, Dahejbara and Koral parganas. This arrangement was later modified by another agreement which yielded the Gaekwad two third of the revenues of these districts.[1]

Damajirao II and Raghuji Bhosle:

Going into the background of the events pertaining to the period, it may be recalled that Peshwa's authority grew considerably in the early part of Shahu's reign, because of Tarabai's intrigues. She challenged the claims of Shahu which threw the state into great confusion. At that critical time Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath managed the affairs of Shahu so well that he became indispensable for him. Chatrapati entrusted him full powers for administering the state. When Bajirao, succeeded his father Balaji Vishwanath, he enjoyed still better position. This created a jealousy among other members of the council of ministers (Ashtapradhans), Senapati being one of them. Bajirao had manipulated to get the authority from the Chatrapati to act independently on special occasions.[2] He being a shrewd politician planned the schemes which suited his interests, but executed the orders in the name of the Chatrapati. This was the source of trouble. The feeling of superiority on the part of the Peshwa excited the jealousy among other officer of equal rank.

1. G.B. Vol.II, pp.131, 132 & 133.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.475.
2. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.402.

Peshwa and Senapati developed ill feelings against each other, due to all that. After the battle of Dabhoi, this rivalry between the two grew stronger. After the death of Trimbakrao, although Yashwantrao Dabhade retained the post of senapati, yet the real authority passed in the hands of Gaekwad. Thus like Dabhades, Gaekwad's interests also clashed with the Peshwa[1]. It was observed that whenever there was any opportunity, Peshwa did harm the Gaekwad. On the part of the Gaekwad he would never lower down the Peshwas authority unless compelled by circumstances. Gradually Chatrapati's authority remained only for name sake. Taking advantage of this the powerful chiefs were trying to establish themselves independently and Gaekwad was one of them.

Damajirao had attained considerable powers by getting the hold of Ahmedabad and shares in the revenues of Surat and Broach. He then thought of limiting the growing influence of the Peshwa's party in the court of Satara. Raghuji Bhonsle, the Maratha chief of Nagpur was also jealous of the Peshwa's acendency. Raghuji's party had differences with Peshwa in the court of Satara. Still Raghuji could influence Chatrapati Shahu in his favour. Inspite of all these moves the well wishers of Peshwa managed to maintain the position and powers of Peshwa as before.

1. S.P.D., Vol.XII, letter No.67.

This was the time when Maratha power was on the rise. The only great enemy left to them was Nizam. To meet Nizam's threat Bajirao combined in league with other Maratha leaders. But Damajirao Gaekwad and Raghuji Bhonsle, did not join him inspite of many reminders from the Peshwa.[1] When the war between Nizam and Peshwas was in progress in 1738[2] Peshwa Bajirao again wrote strongly to Raghuji Bhonsle and Damajirao to join him[3]. This too had no effect. Peshwa wanted Chatrapati Shahu to persuade Senapati Dabhade camping at Songadh, to join him with his officers including Damajirao Gaekwad[4]. Bajirao could besiege Nizam at Bhopal. Forced by circumstances, Nizam asked for the terms of peace. Thus at Dorah Sarai near Sironj, a pact was made in January 1738. By this accommodation Peshwa got the cession of Malva territories, along with the expenses incurred by the Marathas during the war.[5]

1. Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.444.
   "Bajirao assembled all the troops he could collect and reached the place. Neither Yeshwantrao Dabhade nor any of Senapati's officers joined him. Raghuji Bhonsle evaded the orders....".
2. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.155.
3. S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter Nos.70 & 71.

   Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, p.448.
4. Grant Duff., Vol.I,pp.447-448.
5. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.159.

Bajirao Peshwas died in 1740. Raghuji and Damajirao who were friendly at that time found a contestant Bapuji Naik of Baramati to fill in the vacant post of Peshwa. Sindhia and Holkar strongly and very sincerely supported the claim of Balaji, the son of Bajirao. Finally Balaji succeeded in retaining the Peshwaship.

Damajirao, instigated by Raghuji Bhonsle, made a successful inroad into Malwa[1]. This move of Gaekwad led to a reconciliation between Peshwa and Anandrao Pawar. Peshwa established Pawar at Dhar to act as a counterpoise to Damajirao and could win over Raghuji Bhonsle to his side by allowing him to collect the revenues of Lower Bengal. Thus Damajirao was left alone to carry out his designs. For sometime Damajirao remained at Satara and then returned to Gujarat, where his presence was required. Later on Bapuji Naik who at one time a friend of Gaekwad, was also influenced by Peshwa. He acted against Gaekwad by making an attack on Songadh[2]. It was repulsed immediately by the forces of Gaekwad under Rangoji.

Alliance between Momin Khan I and Damajirao Gaekwad II:

Momin Khan, the governor of Camby[a], was appointed viceroy of Gujarat province in 1736[3]. At that time Ratan Singh

1. H.S.B.S.R., Vol.I, letter No.24.
2. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I,pp.448-449.
3. Mirat. p.540.
   Momin Khan appointed viceroy of Gujarat in May 1736.
   Ibid. p.586.
   Momin Khan was awarded a robe of honour from the Imperial court in 1738.

Bhandari, the deputy of previous viceroy was holding the charge of the province in the absence of Abhai Singh who was at Delhi. It was expected that Ratan Singh Bhandari would gave a tough fight to Momin Khan who alone would not be able to expel the former from the capital without some help. So he sought the aid of Damajirao Gaekwad and called on his deputy Rangoji in Gujarat for negotiations[1]. Momin Khan could secure the alliance of the Marathas by the cession of one half of the revenues of Gujarat excepting the city of Ahmedabad and the port of Khambhat (Cambay) which he had made his own headquarter. Momin Khan sent his peshkar Vejeram to Songadh for obtaining sanction and approval of the above terms of agreement from Damajirao who was at that time retiring in Deccan. The terms of agreement were granted and Vajeram returned with an artillery of Damajirao. Damajirao himself started preparation for a march to Gujarat and reached in the vicinity of Ahmedabad. As soon as Ratan Singh Bhandari came to know of this alliance, he also tried to get the aid of Damajirao on a better terms than what Damajirao was getting from Momin Khan. Damajirao informed about this better offer to Momin Khan and thus could secure some more concessions from Momin Khan. Momin Khan subsequently granted besides the previous cessions half the city of Ahmedabad and instead of Khambhat (Cambay) the entire district of Viramgam without any partnership together

1. Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.437.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.447.

with district of Pratij[1]. This alliance remained till Momin Khan's death in 1743. Thus with the alliance Momin Khan formed a confederation with the Gaekwad to expel Ratan Singh Bhandari.

Siege of Ahmedabad.

On getting the news of Damajirao's arrival near Nadiad Momin Khan sent his peshkar Vajeram to meet Damajirao and to arrange for a meeting where Momin Khan in consultation with Fidauddin Khan and some other nobles could decide the strategy of war. It was decided that Damajirao should encamp on the banks of the river and then allies should besiege Ahmedabad. Ratan Singh Bhandari prepared himself fully to meet the joint forces of Momin Khan and Damajirao. The siege of Ahmedabad lasted for about nine months from the end of August 1736 to the end of May 1737[2]. As Damajirao had already spent about two months there after his arrival, he left Rangoji, his deputy to persue the affairs. Rangoji commanded the Marathas in his absence while Damajirao himself went to Sorath for the annual Mulukgiri expedition. Momin Khan became more active active after the departure of Damajirao.

1. Mirat. p.590
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.447.
2. Mirat. p.560.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.461.
   S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter No.88, 96, 98.
   G.B. Vol.I, p.26.

As the siege was tightened by Momin Khan and Rangoji, scarcity for food grains and other essential items was greatly felt by the besieged garrison. Still Ratan Singh Bhandari was giving a brave resistance, although he was not getting any help from Abhai Singh. As the local resources were gradually finishing and he was not able to get any help from Abhai Singh he thought of settling terms with Momin Khan. Ratan Singh Bhandari agreed to hand over the control of the city provided MominKhan paid a sum of one lakh of rupees to him. The allies entered the capital in the year 1737,[1] after the terms of settlement. After getting the control of Ahmedabad Momin Khan and Rangoji attended to the defence and protection of the city.

Joint rule of Mughals and Marathas - 1737 to 1743.

After taking the possession of the city, according to the alliance made between Momin Khan with Damajirao Gaekwad, not only the revenues but also Ahmedabad, the capital of the province was to be equally divided between the two[2]. For this purpose the

1. Mirat. pp.571-576.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.23.
   G.B. vol.I, p.26.
   Comm. Vol.II, pp.464-465.
   Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.67.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.447.
2. Mirat. p.590.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.466.

southern half of the city along with the control over six gates passed on to Rangoji who was commanding the Maratha army during the absence of Damajirao who was busy in Mulukgiri expedition in Sorath. The Maratha guards were posted accordingly in the southern half of the city and on the six gates by Rangoji. Rangoji's officers were also posted along with Momin Khan's in all the wards of the city, to take note of the revenue received and to secure half the share of it.

This arrangement led to several conflicts between the two authorities but were averted by Momin Khan's timely interference. On the whole, harmonious relations prevailed so long as Momin Khan lived. The viceroy and the Gaekwad's deputy respected each other. This was invariably the policy of Momin Khan who realised probably the limitations of his power to reconciliate his ally and to yield to all reasonable demands rather than to involve Marathas in hostility.

Damajirao Gaekwad and Gujarat affairs from 1743-1751.

After making alliance in 1737 with Momin Khan I Damajirao enjoyed a peaceful possession of the territories and received revenues in the province of Gujarat till 1743. After the death of Momin Khan, his son Muftakhir Khan and Momin Khan's brother Fidauddin Khan jointly ruled the province for one year[1]. Later Fidauddin received the formal authority from the Emperor for

1. Mirat. p.615.

the viceroyalty of Gujarat. During this period the financial position of the state was not sound. Fidauddin being a weak administrator could not manage the affairs effectively[1]. This paved the way for Damajirao's deputy Rangoji's ambitious design to get a full control of Ahmedabad. To consolidate his position Rangoji made terms with two powerful officers of the Government, Qiam Quli Khan and Vajeram, Rangoji induced Sher Khan Babi also to join him, promising in return the deputy viceroyalty of the province. It was decided that Sher Khan Babi would help Rangoji when a call from the latter was made. Rangoji thought that it will be easy for him to take the city single handed, so he did not ask Sher Khan Babi to join the expedition when an attack was launched on Ahmedabad on 16th May 1743 while Fidauddin was away at Khambhat (Cambay)[2]. When Rangoji did not ask for his help Sher Khan Babi offered his assistance to Muftakhir Khan, who gladly accepted it. Muftakhir Khan defended the fort bravely. Fidauddin Khan hastened his march from Khambhat (Cambay), Rangoji's position became very critical. He had to ask for peace. In consideration of Damajirao's strong position and control over the province, Fidauddin Khan did not like to create enemity with him. Thus the peace was made. The Mughals gained the possession of Viramgam and Borsad by this peace.[3]

1. G.B. Vol.I, p.45, dt. 13 May 1743.
2. Comm. Vol.II, p.481.
3. G.B. Vol. I, pp.45 & 46.
   Mirat. pp. 617.

Jawan Mard Khan was the deputy viceroy of the province.[1] In between the period of the viceroyalty of Fidauddin Khan and Momin Khan II, Jawan Mard Khan enjoyed complete independence and had established his hold on the province considerably. When Muftakhir Khan got the orders of viceroyalty[2], Jawan Mard Khan refused to acknowledge his authority. Muftakhir Khan sought the help of Rangoji to establish his own authority. He agreed to yield the Marathas, half the share from the revenues of Khambhat (Cambay) as a compensation for that of Viramgam.[3]

In the meantime Maqbul Alam Khan the officer in charge of the fort of Junar, tried to take the charge of the province. He left for Ahmedabad, well equipped and assisted by one of his associated Fatehyab Khan. According to the plan decided he was to take the route which passed through Surat pargana.[4] But afterwards abandoning that plan, he took the route through Songadh which was under Damajirao's jurisdiction. Maqbul Alam Khan boldly marched across this route and without making any assessment of his strength, abruptly turned towards Ahmedabad. He was however, closely pursued by Davaji Takpir

1. Mirat. p.637.
2. Ibid. p.648.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.448.
3. G.B. Vol.I, p.47.
4. Selections H.S., Vol.I, pp.273-274.

and Khanderao Gaekwad[1]. Finally near Ankleshwar at Kim Kathodara a keenly contested battle was fought in December 1743[2], in which Maqbul Alam Khan was worsted by the Gaekwad's forces.

During this short period, Fakhruddaula was appointed the next viceroy of Gujarat. He joined Sher Khan Babi and the Raja of Idar to oust Jawan Mard Khan. Jawan Mard Khan refused to surrender his authority to this viceroy too. He sought the help of Rangoji. In the meantime Fakhruddaula captured the fort of a Nayanpur in 1744[3]. After this engagement Sher Khan and Raja of Idar both deserted Fakhruddaula. Jawan Mard Khan with the assistance of Rangoji defeated Fakruddaula[4].

During all these few years, when Damajirao did not come to Gujarat leaving his authority with his deputy, Rangoji, there was lot of confusion because of the disputed viceroyalty of the province. Khanderao Gaekwad also reached Gujarat with the authority from Umabai Dabhade to act as the deputy to Damajirao in Gujarat.[5] In the beginning, Rangoji and Khanderao acted in cooperation. They jointly laid the siege of Petlad,

1. Selections H.S. Vol.I, p.274.
2. Ibid.
   Mirat. p.640.
3. G.B. Vol.I, pp.47,48 & 51.
4. Mirat. p.650.
5. Ibid. pp.659 & 665.

which was finally surrendered to the forces of Gaekwad. After some time differences developed between Khanderao and Rangoji. Khanderao ousted Rangoji from Borsad and intrigued with Fakhruddaula.

In order to put an end to the dissensions which ensued between Rangoji and Khanderao, Damajirao returned to Gujarat. To pacify Khanderao, Damajirao granted him the district and fort of Borsad as well as Nadiad as his private estate[1]. He also appointed him as his deputy in Baroda. Damajirao also decided to give assistance to his old ally Momin Khan's son, Muftakhir Khan.

Partition of Gujarat between Damajirao and Peshwa:

A dispute was going on from a long time between Peshwa on one hand and Dabhade and Gaekwad on the other hand, for the claim of half the share in the terriotires of Gujarat. Both Dabhade and Gaekwad jointly offered resistance to the Peshwa's demands for the half share in Gujarat. In 1750 when the grand assemblage met at Poona, Peshwa pressed Umabai Dabhade to accede to his demand.[2] Initially she resisted, but finding that Peshwa would not relent to his demand[3] Umabai signed under compulsion a written consent agreeing to give to him the half share of Gujarat.[4]

1. Mirat. p.672.
2. Purandare Daftar, Vol.I. letter No.229 dt. 2.8.1750.
3. Ibid. letter No.239.
4. Ibid. letter Nos.264, 265, 268 and 270.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.40 dt. 18.2.1750.

The question of succession at Satara after the death of Chatrapati Shahu in 1749 brought Umabai Dabhade and Tarabai together. These two ladies started intriguing with other Maratha leaders,[1] and called Damajirao for their help. Damajirao accepted the call of Tarabai and started for Satara from Songadh along with 15000 horses. At this time Peshwa was away from Poona on his Karnataka expedition. But his officers intercepted Gaekwad's march, Few skirmishes had taken place between the Gaekwad and the Peshwa troops. The first major action fought between the rival groups was in 1751 in Khandesh in which Damajirao defeated Peshwa's troops. The Gaekwad thereupon marched to Poona. From Talegam came Dabhade and joined him[2]. On March 9th of the year 1751, Gaekwad reached Nimbgaon Davdi, where Trimbakrao Pethe opposed him[3]. Damajirao's intentions were to fall upon Poona[4], though he was advised by veteran Pilaji Jadhav for desisting from such aggression upon the city of Poona. Peshwa's mother also wrote a letter of the same effect to Damajirao.

Damajirao then advanced his march to Satara. Once again Pilajirao Jadhav wrote to him and assured Damajirao that he would bring a settlement between him and Peshwa and that he should not go against the Peshwa. But Damajirao did not yield

1. Purandare Daftar, Vol.I, pp.260-264.
   Bhau's letter in reference of Tarabai that she is planning against Peshwa and that Govindrao Gaekwad is in league with her.
2. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.307.
3. Purandare Dafter Part I, letter No.333 dt.9.3.1751.
4. Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.274.
   H.S.B.S.R. letter No.40 dt. 7.3.1751.

to his advice and informed Pilaji Jadhav that he had already given his words to Tarabai which cannot be violated[1]. Damajirao proceeded straight to Satara to pay his respects to Tarabai. Actually Damajirao did not want to lose this opportunity which might have reduced Peshwa's power.

On the 13th March, 1751, Peshwa's forces under Nana Purandare attacked Damajirao's camp, but they were routed. Again on 15th March 1751, another attack was made on Damajirao's camp by Peshwa's forces under Mehendale, Pethe etc. This time Peshwa's forces succeeded[2]. Damajirao and Dabhade had to retreat. They took shelter near Satara[3]. Damajirao organised his resources again with the help of Tarabai. A light action took place on 21st March 1751 with no decisive result.

Balaji Bajirao Peshwa left Sadashivrao to complete the operations of his expedition in Karnataka and he himself hastened to return to Satara[4] to meet the threat caused by the combination of Damajirao and Tarabai's partisans including Dabhade. Peshwa reached near Satara on 24th March and found that Ga ekwad was practically besieged by his troops, so that no supply could reach him from outside. Finding his position

1. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.307.
2. S.P.D.J. Vol.I, letter No.120, dt.30.3.1751.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.45. dt.31.3.1751.
   Peshwa congratulated Bapuji on his victory over Gaekwad and that he is reaching shortly at Satara.
   Ibid. letter No.42, dt.15.3.1751.
3. Ibid. letter No.43, dt.31.3.1751.
4. Purandare Daftar Vol.I, letter No.340 dt.5.4.1751.

untenable, Damajirao applied for terms. A personal meeting was arranged between Peshwa Balaji Bajirao and Damajirao along with Dabhade. Peshwa made a stern demand for his claim of half the share in revenues as well as territories in Gujarat. Damajirao diplomatically avoided to give a definite answer by simply replying that he was subordinate to Dabhades and hence had got no powers to decide such matters[1]. During the course of these negotiations, Peshwa suddenly attacked Damajirao's camp on 30th April 1751, seized him and his officers. Peshwa broke his solemn assurance. This conduct of Balaji Bajirao Peshwa was widely condemned at that time.

Peshwa kept all the Gaekwads together, strongly guarded from outside communication. Dabhades too were kept together along with Umabai. Damajirao was asked again to cede the half of the tributes of Gujarat. Thus under compulsion Gaekwad had to sign his consent on 11th May 1751. After this they were sent to Poona under the care of Avji Kavde. Peshwa tried to negotiate with Tarabai also. But she refused his offers, though with the capture of Dabhade and Gaekwad her main support was gone. Peshwa left a strong guard to watch Tarabai's movements at Satara and he himself left for Poona on 22nd May 1751. For over ten months Peshwa's most formidable opponent was kept under confinement and Peshwa utilised this opportunity to

1. Gupte B.A., Selections from the Historical Records of the Hereditory Ministers of Baroda, letter No.52

   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.310.

advance his own interests in Gujarat[1]. He sent Vithal Shivdev and Raghunath Rao, his brother to take the possession of the territories of Damajirao in Gujarat for the settlement of his own half share. Damajirao's two sons Khanderao and Sayajirao were also sent along with Raghunath Rao.

In the meantime Damajirao's helpmate Ramchandra Baswant escaped confinement and went to Songadh and started creating trouble against Peshwa. The affairs remained in the confused state for quite sometime. Peshwa Balaji Bajirao realised that Raghunath Rao was not able to manage the affairs in Gujarat without Damajirao's assistance, as the Mughal officers of the province were trying to take the advantage of Damajirao's detention at Poona. Peshwa therefore decided to come to terms with Gaekwad. Damajirao II also realised that his presence was necessary in Gujarat in the interest of his own affairs. In consequence a treaty was arranged and formally ratified on 30th March 1752[2]. Damajirao was thus released with all his associates and allowed to proceed to Gujarat.[3]

1. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.311.
   Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.69.
2. Aitchison C.U., A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and its neighbouring countries (hereinafter abbreviated as Treaties) Vol.VI, No.1
   H.D.B., File No.4, D/No.42.
3. G.B., Vol.I, p.90.
   It is mentioned that Damajirao had settled terms with Peshwa. Though the deed of the division is dated 30th March 1752 but the agreement was arrived at earlier on 25th February 1752 and Damajirao was allowed tp proceed to Gujarat.

Partition treaty of 1752.

The claims in the share of the tributes from Gujarat put forward for the first time by Bajirao during his tenure of peshwaship was thus settled finally by the efforts of Balaji Bajirao in 1752 after a quarter of a century. Peshwa by this treaty acquired those vast and valuable territorial rights in Gujarat which had been laboriously won by the joint efforts of Dabhade and Gaekwad. The subordination of Gaekwad was thus strikingly asserted, but being a tributary, the Gaekwas never heartily entered into the confederacy of states of which Poona was the centre, and was never reconciled to Peshwa. Outwardly Damajirao and Peshwa seemed reconciled as upon his visit to Poona on 23rd June 1752, Damajirao was highly honoured and cordially received, the Peshwa himself going a long distance to receive him[1], but in later years the Gaekwads opposed the Peshwas whenever opportunity arose.

Terms of the treaty[2]

As per terms of the treaty signed in 1752, between Balaji Bajirao Peshwa and Damajirao Gaekwad, the claims of Dabhades in Gujarat were entirely abandoned and in lieu of that a certain amount of money was fixed to be paid for their maintenance. Damajirao became the sole representatives of the Marathas in Gujarat.[3] Though long before Damajirao had established his supremacy in Gujarat by defeating the Mughals and

1. Purandare Daftar, vol.I, dt.23.6.1752.
2. Mirat.pp. 731-733.
   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.311.
3. Selections from the Historical Records of the Hereditary Ministers of Baroda, letter No.52.

reducing them to non entity yet the actual powers for administering the state came to him by this treaty.

During Pilajirao Gaekwads time in 1731, it was promised by him that tributes from his conquests would be paid regularly to the Chatrapati through Peshwa. But neither Pilajirao nor his son Damajirao II paid the tributes regularly. Certain amounts had been paid by the Gaekwads at irregular intervals. Due to this irregular payments a large arrears were due to be paid to Chatrapati. By the terms of this treaty Damajirao Gaekwad promised to pay that amount to Chatrapati.

Damajirao agreed to maintain 10,000 horses for Peshwa and also agreed to assist him whenever called upon to do so. Besides Damajirao had to cede one half of all his dominions in Gujarat to Balaji Bajirao and promised to yield a similar half of all the shares in his future conquests[1].

From the terms of the treaty it is evident that Peshwa had become a dominant partner in Gujarat and Damajirao had to submit to his directions. Inspite of territorial achievements in subsequent years relations between the two were more like a tributary and far from being very cordial.

Conquest of Ahmedabad by Gaekwad and Peshwa.

Immediately after the treaty Peshwa appointed his brother Raghunath Rao as his representative to proceed to Gujarat to

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.56, dt.30.3.1752.

conquer Ahmedabad. Raghunath Rao started for Gujarat in January 1753[1], having been joined by Damajirao in Khandesh came directly to Ahmedabad and besieged the city. Jawan Mard Khan tried his utmost to defend the city, but he was overpowered. He agreed to deliver the hold of the city of Ahmedabad to the joint forces of Damajirao and Raghunath Rao provided they paid a sum of about one lakh of rupees to him and also leave Patan, Barnagar, Radhanpur and several other districts north of Ahmedabad.[2] On being assured of the grant of his demands he surrendered the town of Ahmedabad along with the whole territory of Kathiawad upto Dwarka to Raghunath Rao on 25th March 1753.[3]

Momin Khan II, the Nawab of Cambay, tried to get the orders from Delhi for securing the viceroyalty of the province and subsequently he got it[4], but without any promise of help from Delhi to maintain his position against the Maratha raids. In 1756 when Rathunath Rao was away at Delhi Momin Khan planned to capture Ahmedabad, which he took on 16th October 1756.[5]

1. Mirat. p.734.
   Sardesai. Vol.II, p.312.
   Selections. H.S. Vol.I, p.304, dt.4.4.1753.
2. Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.72.
3. Sardesai. Vol.II, p.312.
   Mirat. pp.734-742.
   G.B., Vol.I, p.105, letter dt.4.4.1753.
   gives reference of Maratha occupation of Ahmedabad.
4. Mirat. p.816.
5. Ibid. pp.807-815.
   Sardesai. Vol.II, p.313.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.528.

On receiving the news of the events at Ahmedabad, Peshwa Balaji Bajirao immediately planned an expedition. He appointed Sadashiv Ramchandra as his deputy at Ahmedabad. At the same time Damajirao Gaekwad who shared with the Peshwa the rights over the province, was instructed to cooperate with Sadashiv. Jawan Mard Khan made friendship with the Marathas. Early in January 1757, the joint forces of these three arrived at the frontiers of Ahmedabad and laid a siege[1], which lasted for over a year and ended in February 1758. Momin Khan asked for peace. He invited Damajirao who at one time was his father's friend and ally, to serve as mediator. The term of negotiations were settled. It was agreed that Momin Khan II would get a sum of rupees one lakh after deducting rupees thirty thousand and would surrender Gogha. Peshwa would receive half the custom duty of the port of Khambhat (Cambay) as he was receiving in the past.[2] Ahmedabad thereafter continued to be the Maratha possession with half the share to Peshwa and the other half to Gaekwad. This joint rule bore close resemblence to the treaty made between Rangoji, Damajirao's deputy and Momin Khan I earlier in 1737 at the time of the establishment of a joint rule of Mughal viceroy and Damajirao Gaekwad.[3]

1. Mirat. p.815.
2. Ibid. p.850.
   G.B. Vol.I, p.117.
3. Ibid. Vol.IX, pp.26-27.

Damajirao II and Dabhades:

Although a settlement was made by the mediation of Shahu between Dabhade, Gaekwad and Peshwa, after the battle of Dabhoi in 1731, yet Umabai Dabhade was not reconciled with the Peshwa, who had a support from Shahu. She showed her resentment by creating troubles in the parganas of Peshwa, and sometimes she was intriguing with Nizam also.[1] There was an internal conflict between the members of the Dabhade family amongst themselves. The successors of Trimbakrao Dabhade, after his death, were not competent enough to manage the affairs in Gujarat. On the contrary Damajirao was actually holding the authority in Gujarat in the name of Dabhade. This was the origin of dispute between Damajirao and Dabhade.

He was operating on behalf of Dabhade in the cover of subordination but actually held the authority for administration. He was capable of taking decisions. But being subordinate, he was supposed not to take any important decision. Damajirao took advantage of this fact as is clear from one of the happenings of 1751 when Peshwa asked half the share in Gujarat, Damajirao saved his position by declaring that Gujarat belonged to Umabai Dabhade and he being a subordinate is incapable of taking any decision, though from quite a long time the actual power was in Damajirao's hands. Gaekwad's position could be compared with that of Peshwa, who had fully established themselves by the time

1. S.P.D.J. Vol.I, letter Nos.43, 44 & 45.
   Ibid. Vol.XII, letter No.65 dt.28.5.1734.

of Bajirao, still all the important orders to the chiefs of his rank were given in Shahu's name. It suited the Peshwas to act as 'nominal servants and real masters to rule the Maratha chiefs as the delegate of their prince[1].

After Partition Treaty was made between Peshwa and Gaekwad, the complete authority had gone to Gaekwads for which Umabai Dabhade's chagrin was natural[2]. Though Umabai had dissensions with Gaekwad yet both of them were anxious to settle their differences mutually and amicably.[3]

By the Partition Treaty of 1752, Dabhade lost the hold in Gujarat. His financial state of affairs had already detoriated considerably by that time. Huge arrears were due to be paid by him to Chatrapati. By this treaty, he lost the territorial rights. Damajirao Gaekwad has to pay a certain sum to Chatrapati Shahu in lieu of the possession he got of Dabhade's territories in Gujarat. Beside Damajirao had to pay the arrears of Dabhade[4] too. In this way Dabhade lost all the claims from Gujarat and Gaekwad became the sole authority in their place.

1. Grant Duff. Vol.I, p.402.
2. S.P.D. Vol.XII, letter No.109.
3. Ibid. letter No.107.
4. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.64 dt.19.11.1754.

Damajirao II and the battle of Panipat.

After the Partition Treaty of 1752, Damajirao abstained from any major intrigues against the Peshwa. On the contrary he showed complete submission to the Peshwa.[1] In 1761, the great war between Marathas and Afghans took place at Panipat.[2] Peshwa Balaji Bajirao sent a full contingent under the command of his cousin Sadashiv Rao. During the fierce encounter most of the Maratha commanders were slain. Damajirao Gaekwad showed his valour in the battle. He thought of giving a tough fight to Afghan with the assistance of Mahadji Sindhia and Malharrao Holkar, after Sadashiv Rao fell in the battle. At the time of this national emergency caused by the threat of foreign invaof Afghan, he kept aside his differences with Peshwa and fought the battle with sincerity and courage. He did not care at that time regarding his own sovereignty in Gujarat and carried out the orders of Peshwa with prudence. Though the Marathas lost the battle, but Damajirao remained in the field upto the last. Only few Maratha chiefs could return safely back from the battle, Damajirao being one of them. On his return he was honoured by Peshwa for his outstanding courage and sincerity to him.[3]

1. S.P.D.J.,Vol.I, letter No.230, dt.13.1.1760

2. Shinde N.G., Marthyanchya Prasidh Ladhaya (hereinafter abbreviated as M.P.L.) pp.167.

   Parasnis D.B., Itihas Sangrah - Aitihasic Tipne (hereinafter abbreviated as I.S.A.T.) Part I.p.19.

   Sardesai, Vol.II, p.456.

3. M.P.L. p.184.

Damajirao Gaekwad's activities after 1761.

After Damajirao returned from the battle of Panipat, he carried out his activities in Gujarat with prudence. The defeat at Panipat was disastrous and it had a definite setback to the Maratha ambitions. Babi Chief, Jawan Mard Khan, wanted to take advantage of this diaster. But Damajirao did not allow designs of Babi Chief to materialise and in retaliation conquered most of his territories in Gujarat and Kathiawad. Other Mughal chiefs in Gujarat also tried to take advantage of the situation. But Damajirao's efforts frustrated their designs.[1] He made conquests in Kathiawad and levied tributes from Idar and Rajpipla states. Damajirao shifted his head-quarters from Songadh to Patan after making territorial acquisitions besides adding considerable tribute from these conquests. Nawab of Khambhat (Cambay) also tried to oust Maratha officers and attacked certain Gaekwad territories. Damajirao took action against the Nawab and forced him to seek for peace.[2] Likewise Nawab of Broach also tried to throw the Gaekwad's authority in Broach. Damajirao entrusted this task to be done by his son Govindrao Gaekwad who set right the Broach affairs.[3]

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.80 dt. 7.6.1761.
   I.S.A.T. Part I, pp.79 & 80.
2. Mirat. p.869.
   S.P.D.J. Vol.I, letter No.247, dt.23.5.1761.
   This letter refers to the disturbances created by the Nawab of Khambhat (Cambay).
   Ibid. Vol.III, letter No.208.
   S.P.D. Vol.XXV, Letter No.116.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.87 dt.Jan.1763, Letter No.91 dt.7.3.1763, Letter No.93, dt.13.7.1763.
3. S.P.D.J. Vol.III, Letter No.224,
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No. 120.

Award of title of Sena Khas Khel to Damajirao II.

Madhavrao succeeded his father Balaji Bajirao as Peshwa. His uncle, Raghunath Rao, was appointed his Regent. But Madhavrao could not tolerate Raghunath Rao's overbearance. Thus started the dessensions between the uncle and the nephew. Nizam attempted to take advantage of this situation. But Raghunath Rao and Madhavrao for the time kept their dessensions aside and united to oppose Nizam. Damajirao Gaekwad also accompanied Raghunath Rao in the war against Nizam which was fought at Tandulja in the year 1763.[1] Damajirao showed great valour which greatly contributed in the success of Raghunath Rao's forces. Damajirao obtained great honour and the title of Sena Khas Khel from Chatrapati in recognition for his great contribution in the victory against Nizam.[2]

Though Damajirao was showing his obedience to Peshwa, complying with his orders and assisting him in all his expeditions, yet Damajirao was not reconciled with Peshwa. Damajirao played an important part in these depredatory warfares but he was not the chief beneficiary[3]. It is evident by the facts that there were disputes regarding certain matters as for Babi

1. Peshwayanchi Bakhar, p.66.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.97, dt.28.8.1763, and letter No.98 dt. 24.8.1763.
2. S.P.D.J. Vol.III, letter No.210, dt.31.10.1763.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.100, dt.24.9.1763.
3. G.B. Vol.I, p.105.

Mahals, which had beenq bestowed to Gaekwad by Peshwa in Saranjam.[1] Afterwards at the time of partition of Gujarat in 1752, Gaekwad secured these places without paying any tribute for them. But later Peshwa desired half the share from these places also.

As Damajirao was busy in military activities, he entrusted the work of collecting the revenues, and establishing law and order in his territories to his sons, Fatehsingrao and Govindrao[2].

After sometime, Damajirao allied himself with Raghunath Rao. Matters had come to such a pass between Raghunath Rao and Madhavrao, that hostilities were unavoidable. But with the mediation of some of the chiefs, matters were settled. A truce was made between the two and pardon was granted to Raghunathra Rao's associates, Bhonsle, Damajirao Gaekwad etc.[3] Sometimes later a battle was fought at Dhodup in 1768 in which Peshwa's army defeated the allies and captured Raghunath Rao and Govindrao Gaekwad who had joined Raghunath Rao. This time

1. Vad., G.C., Selections from the Satara Rajas and the Peshwas Diaries, part IV, p.125.
2. H.S.B.S.R., Vol.I, Letter Nos. 89, 94, 97, 102, 104.
3. Ibid letter No. 136.

again Peshwa extracted most onerous terms from the Gaekwad. Gaekwad was not paying the tributes regularly. He was made to pay them regularly and was reminded to pay the arrears which were due.[1]

Damajirao's naval power.

In the beginning of 18th century English, Dutch, Portuguese and French were trying to establish themselves in Western India. English had their business houses at Khambhat (Cambay), Broach, Surat and Bombay on the west coast. The Sidis were appointed admirals in the navy by Mughals. Basically they were pirates. But for the purpose of protecting trade Mughals had given them the command of the castle of Surat with certain revenues attached to it.

During that period there were several conflicting powers at Surat. They were Sidi Masud Khan, the incharge of the castle, and Nawab Safdar Khan, the civil administrator of Surat. Besides these two Damajirao's agent collected one third of the revenues for his master, without doing anything to maintain the law and order in the district. Mia Achind was an aspirant for the Nawabship of Surat. He was a partisan of English in the hope of displacing Nawab Safdar Khan. Peshwa was also

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.128.
   G.B. Vol.III, p.24.
   Sardesai, Vol.II, pp.311 & 531.
   Gaz.B.S., Vol.I, p.466.

putting his demand for a share in the revenues of Surat. English resolved to induce Peshwa to join them in restoring order at Surat. Though it could not be effected in 1751, yet in 1755. Peshwa made proposals to settle Surat affairs. At that time English were preparing a plan to establish their supremacy in the castle at Surat without the assistance of Peshwa. Peshwa came to know of this move and in retaliation made a plan to demonstrate against the Government of Bombay[1]. Because of this, English had to abandon the expedition for the time being till in 1758 they carried it out successfully. An alliance was made between the English and Faris Khan for the purpose of putting the latter in the complate possession of the civil government while the English were to hold the castle with its contingent revenue for the protection of the fleet. The interests of Damajirao Gaekwad was however to be in no way meddled with.[2]

Before the English took possession of Surat castle[3] and assumed the office of admirals of the Mughal fleet, the Sidis had proved themselves quite incapable of adequately protecting the trading vessels[4], which on the way from, or to, Surat,

1. Grant Duff, Vol.I, p.501.
2. G.B. Vol.I, p.123.
   Ibid. p.131, letter dt. 2nd Feb. 1759.
3. Mirat.pp.875 & 887.
   Receipt of a Royal order in respect of entrusting Qiledari to the English.
   Selections H.S. Vol.I, pp.322, 338 & 339.
   Ibid. p.XLV; Introduction
   "On 1st Dec. 1759 the firman from Mughal Emperor granting the castle of Surat to the English was received".
4. Ibid. p.237.

fell frequently a prey to pyratical marauders. Damajirao Gaekwad had created his own fleet, cruising round about Surat and upto Dwarka long before to protect the shipping in the pirate infested area. His fleet often furnished convoys to ships sailing for Kathiawad and the ports of Sind. Its head-quarter was at Billimora. As Gaekwad dominions were scattered at far off places like Dwarka, Kodinar and other regions which were easily accessible by sea, they had to maintain a strong navy for the protection of their land. It is quite clear by the English records that Damajirao's naval officer consented to assist English and Dutch to destroy the pyratical vessels, on the condition that ports belonging to Damajirao should be left completely untouched.[1] This is an evidence of Damajirao's power and influence in the activities on sea[2].

Damajirao II, career and contribution in establishment of Gaekwad rule in Gujarat:

Damajirao II, succeeding his father Pilajirao after his assassination in 1732 is another important personality in Gaekwad family who contributed in the establishment of Gaekwad rule in Gujarat. He had firm determination to establish himself in Gujarat and was not deterred by the death

1. G.B., Vol.I, p.71.
2. Ibid. pp.72, 113 & 114.
   H.S.B.S.R., Vol.III. Letter No.164 & 165.
   These letters show that the Gaekwad Government maintained a Navy which could repulse a sea power like the Portuguese at Daman.

of his father. The assassination of Pilajirao even could not bring the desired advantages thought of by the Mughals.

As a military chief, he had dinstinguished himself considerably. By his courage and military experience, gained during his father's time, he could get back all the territories of his father. This he could achieve with the help of his father's allies.

Damajirao had an expansionist attitude. He wanted to expand his areas of activities in the neighbouring states too. He thus entrusted administration and collection of revenues in Gujarat to his two sons, Fatehsingrao and Govindrao. He engaged himself in expanding his hold in the other neighbouring areas.

What Pilajirao could not achieve, his son Damajirao could get by his diplomacy. He could secure a footing in Kathiawad. Prior to his tenure annual mulukgiri expeditions were made for the collection of revenues by Pilajirao and Damajirao I. He could achieve a footing in Kathiawad after he married the daughter of the chief of Lathi in Amreli district. He got some districts in Kathiawad as dowry in his marriage but later acquired more possessions by his own merit notable among them being Babi Mahals. Damajirao was considered to be very powerful military chief. He could force the Mughals to submit and could achieve a joint rule in Ahmedabad for the first time.

Damajirao's diplomatic foresightedness was remarkable. He could achieve a settlement with Balaji Bajirao Peshwa in sharing Gujarat revenues, becoming the sole Maratha representative in Gujarat and abandoning altogether the claims of Dabhades from the Gujarat scene. He was responsible to reduce Dabhade to a nonentity in Gujarat and simultaneously getting independent territorial gains for himself.

He was a strong "nationalist" too. This is evident during the war with Afghans at Panipat in 1761. During this grave emergency caused by the attack of Afghans he set aside his own territorial gains and difference with Peshwa. He fought the battle with valour to save the country. Although Marathas lost the battle but Damajirao's character in this battle was exemplary and his courage is worth mentioning. He fought the battle upto the end. Most of the Maratha military chiefs were killed in the battle but he could return safely. As a military chief he also had the distinction of being awarded a title of Sena Khas Khel in 1763.

As a person Damajirao II had certain benevolent qualities. He was religious minded and charitable[1]. Old records indicate that he had developed certain pilgrim centre in Gujarat and had donated money for the repairs of temples and other religious places.

1. H.S.B.S.R. Letter Nos. 27, & 66.

Damajirao II had creative abilities also. A Sadhu had a great influence over him. He could induce him to get interested in alchemy. During one of his emperimentation on alchemy he lost his life by an accident on 18th August 1768.

Damajirao II had seven sons namely, Sayajirao, Fatehsingrao, Govindrao, Manaji, Murarrao, Ramrao and Jaisingrao. One of his son, Fatehsingrao acquired the distinction of being a great ruler of the Baroda State.

CHAPTER V: GAEKWAD'S SHARE OF REVENUES IN GUJARAT

Revenue system before and during Mughal rule in Gujarat:

The Mughals conquered Gujarat from the Sultans of Ahmedabad in 1573. Akbar did not introduce new systems in Gujarat, but retained the old working of the Government. The whole province continued to be divided into two parts one part directly administered by the viceroy who took the place of Ahmedabad Kings, and the other which was merely a tributory[1]. In addition to this arrangement, Emperor granted his supporters specific lands in the province. The tributes were fixed according to the terms made at the time of the conquest and bore no relation to the financial resources of the area. The tributes were not regularly levied but were in general extracted either actually by force or by display of military force under the system called Mulukgiri, subsequently adopted and amplified by the Marathas. In the feudatory states the revenue consisted of the shares in the crops, levied either directly on the cultivator by the agents or collected through the superior landlords. Akbar appointed an accountant with each governor. The duty of the accountant was to check the management of the internal affairs and to correspond with the head accountant at Ahmedabad, an officer next to the viceroy of the province. Before the Mughals, the custom of collecting the revenue through contractors (Ijara) was in practice. Akbar abolished this system. Later the Marathas revived it again.

1. Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.428.

During the times of Ahmedabad Kings the military chiefs were assigned certain lands in the jagir[1] which later became their personal property. These chiefs governed those lands afterwards by themselves independently. During the Mughal regime these jagirdars were brought under the control of the government. In the early part of the eighteenth century the Mughal rule in the province became weak and the Maratha influence in Gujarat was increasing. The invasions of the Marathas in the province became more frequent creating a great confusion. These jagirdars tried to become independent, notable amongst them were the Babi family, the Nawabs of Surat, Broach and Khambhat (Cambay) who by the middle of the eighteenth century established themselves independently.

Besides the big jagirdars, there were the estates of small independent hindu zamindars. Akbar allowed them to retain their jagir (Watans). In addition to jagirdars and hindu zamindars there were turbulent small land owners called Girassias. Thus there were several arrangements in the management of the land in Gujarat during the Mughal and before the Mughal rule in Gujarat.

Revenues of Surat.

Surat was considered as one of the rich city and sea port of India. When Shivaji made a surprise attack on Surat in

1. Gaz. B.S., Vol.I, p.429.

1664, English traders gave a good resistance to Marathas[1]. In return of the English traders generous assistance to the people of the area during this raid, Aurangzeb exempted English from paying the custom which was extracted from the traders of other nations.[2] Afterwards several attacks were made by the Marathas. Pilajirao Gaekwad's attention was concentrated on Surat Attavisi in the year 1711. He made incursions in Surat and collected the tribute afterwards many times during those year[3]. Pilajirao solicited an alliance with Hamid Khan who was fighting with the new viceroy's deputy, Shujat Khan (details in Chapter III). For giving this assistance Pilajirao received half the share in the grant of Chauth of Gujarat[4]. Later Pilajirao collected annually on his own accord these revenues in the town of Surat[5]. This arrangements became an established affair even after Pilajirao's death. The collection of tribute from this part of the province was in Gaekwad's authority from that time.

1. Mirat. p.228.
   Selectións H.S., Vol.I, p.425.
2. Ibid.pp.36 to 43, dt.4th April 1664.
   Selections H.S. Vol.I, pp.213-214.
   The firman granted by Aurangzeb to the English Company, translation from the Persian manuscript written on 26th June 1667.
3. Mirat. pp.414 ; 419, & 450.
   Huzur Political Office (hereinafter abbreviated as H.P.O.) File No.1, p.2.
4. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.22.
5. G.B., Vol.I, p.2.
   From Jonathan Duncan's minutes dated 21st Sept. 1798.

After the death of Rustam Ali Khan in 1725, the governorship of Surat went to his son Sohrab Khan who held the office till 1732. Pilajirao was annually collecting the revenues of Surat. The Mughals started the practice of ruling the pargana of Surat under two administrative heads. The command of the castle along with the fleet was separately administered while the administration of the town was done by separate officer. To maintain the garrison of the castle, territories (jagir) were allotted to the respective officer. In 1732 Tegbakht Khan was appointed the governor of Surat pargana by the Mughal Emperor. Tegbakht Khan, taking advantage of the weak central rule, styled himself as independent Nawab and conciliated measures to strengthen his position.

Tegbakht Khan tried to improve and regularise the revenues of Surat. He took several measures. Firstly, he increased the duties levied on the goods passing through Surat, thus increasing the revenues. Secondly he tried to make a settlement of revenues with Gaekwad. Since Tegbakht Khan was obliged to Damajirao for the latter's assistance in establishing the former, the settlement was easily made. Damajirao at that time was having an authority on the neighbouring territories around Surat. In 1735 Tegbakht Khan negotiated with Damajirao and it was settled that Damajirao, in return of a sum of Rs.2,36,000/-, could hold the right on the land

surrounding Surat and collect its revenues. Besides Gaekwad had to pay 'Amil Sukhadi' (Customary fees)[1] as usual to Tegbakht Khan. Finally Tegbakht Khan improved his financial position by witholding part of the subsidy due to the admirals of the Mughal fleet.

Like Tegbakht Khan, the English were also very eager to extend their power and improve their finances in Surat. The English realised revenues by way of granting passes to traders. They also thought of securing the command of the Mughal fleet so that the whole subsidy of it went into their treasury. They tried to get the hold but were unsuccessful to secure it from Tegbakht Khan.

After the death of Tegbakht Khan in 1746 Safdar Khan succeeded as governor of Surat and made his son Wiqar Khan, the incharge of the castle. In 1748, a relative of Tegbakht Khan, Mia Achind could secure the castle of Surat from Wiqar Khan and the civil administration from Safdar Khan. This, Mia Achind did with the help of English and Damajirao. In return for this assistance Damajirao was granted one fourth of the revenue of Surat[2]. In 1750-51 Safdar Khan again restored the administration of the town and his son Wiqar Khan became

1. G.B. Vol.I, pp.16,17,& 21.
2. Ibid, Vol.I, p.63.

the Killedar of the fort again. This time Wiqar Khan had promised Damajirao half the revenue of the city for his assistance. But Safdar Khan thought that the sum was too much, reduced the grant to one third[1]. Later in 1752 Peshwa insisted the Nawab of Surat to pay to the Poona Government also an equal share of revenue besides what was granted to the Gaekwad.[2] Inspite of this Damajirao never ceased to interfere with the Surat politics till in 1758 he designed either to take the town for himself, or establish his partisan.[3] In 1758-59 again a change took place in the Governorship of Surat after Safdar Khan. The castle was finally taken by the English in 1759. They asked the Poona Government and Damajirao Gaekwad to pay the revenue to them as usual as was given to the previous officers of the Nawab.[4]

When the partition treaty was signed in 1752, as per terms of the treaty Damajirao had given to Peshwa, half of his share from the Surat pargana. In 1772, when Fatehsingrao wanted to enter into an alliance with English, he offered to

1. G.B.B. Vol.I, p.100.
   Ibid. p.121.
   Imp. Gaz. pp.11 & 12.
2. B.G.B. Vol.I, p. 103.
3. Ganse G.H., Banaji D.R., The Third Embassy to Poona Mostyn's Diary and Letters (hereinafter abbreviated as M.D.L.) p.377.
   Selections M.S., Vol.I, pp.125 & 127.
4. Bombay Political Department (hereinafter abbreviated as B.P.D.) file No.3, pp.22-38 and 41-42.
   Ibid. pp.98 & 281.
   Ibid. pp.310-315.

give English that share of revenue of Surat pargana which the Gaekwads gave to Peshwa[1] as per terms of the partition treaty of 1752. He also promised that he would surrender his own share of Surat revenues at a later date. The alliance at that time could not materialise. But these terms formed the basis of another treaty signed between Fatehsingrao and English and which was made at Kundila sometimes later[2]. On 12th January 1773, an agreement was made between the English and the Fatehsingrao Gaekwad.[3] By this agreement Gaekwad offered to give English a yearly sum of Rs.60,000/- from his share of the revenues of Surat. It was further settled that Gaekwad would also give the amount which he was giving to the Nawab. Subsequently in 1775 by the treaty with Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao the English gained Chikli and Variav near Surat from Fatehsingrao Gaekwad[4]. Again by the treaty of Kundila in 1780, Fatehsingrao gave his districts to the English in Surat Attavisi[5] which he had promised earlier.

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.32.
   Ibid. letter No.79.
2. Gaz. B.S. Vol.I, p.469.
3. Treaties, Vol.VIII, Part I, No.1, p.23.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.32.
4. Ibid. Letter No.48.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.271 & 291.
   Treaties, Vol.VIII, part I, No.2, p.23.
5. Ibid. Vol.VIII, Part I, No.6, p.25.

Broach revenues:

Broach formed a part of the province of Gujarat. It is situated on the north bank of the river Narbada. Owing to its natural situation it was not so easily accessible to invaders. During the Mughal rule, governors were appointed by the Mughal authorities to administer the Broach pargana. In the early eighteenth century, when the Mughal power was in the declining phase, the last governor usurped authority as an independent ruler.

Nizam was appointed the viceroy of Gujarat in 1723.After assuming the office he assigned few fertile lands of the province as his personal jagir, Broach being one of them. Pilajirao Gaekwad made several incursions in the Broach pargana with an idea of collecting tributes from the place.He was pressing hard the rulers of Broach to grant him rights of collection of Broach revenues. At last he could succeed in 1724 to get an authority from Hamid Khan, the deputy of Nizam, to collect the revenues of Broach, amounting to four lakhs of rupees.

The Mughals kept only 200 men and one officer at Broach to supervise its garrison and to collect the revenues.Pilajirao took advantage of the situation, ousted the Mughals and kept his own forces under the command of Tulaji, who remained there for about eight months. Later leaving the place in the hands

of Kasbatis[1], Tulaji went to Songadh to see Pilajirao.During Tulaji's absence, Kasbatis surrendered the place to Abdulla Beg, who was holding Broach earlier as its Faujdar. During the viceroyalty of Sarbuland Khan too, Abdulla Beg held this office. But when Abhai Singh took over the charge of the province from Sarbuland Khan, Abdulla Beg refused to remain under his authority. Instead he placed himself under the authority of Nizam, who held Broach as his jagir. The Nizam bestowed upon him the title of Nek Alam Khan, and allowed him to hold Broach as his deputy. Abdulla Beg neither acknowledged nor admitted the pretentions of the Gaekwad[2].

During all the above developments Pilajirao and his men became a source of trouble to the officers at Broach. They were making frequent incursions in Broach for the collection of tributes. Nizam visited the place and in order to secure peace settled the matters between Abdulla Beg and Pilajirao. It was then settled for the first time that the Broach revenues should be shared equally between them, and the Marathas could keep their officers in the town with sufficient men for collecting their share of revenues.

During the time of Damajirao II, the Gaekwads consolidated the collection of revenues from Broach more efficiently.

1. Kasbatis: hired soldiers were known as Kasbates.
2. Comm. Vol.II, p.475.

Damajirao II was having a great influence in Gujarat. On his return from the annual Mulukgiri expedition from Kathiawad in 1741 he laid a siege on Broach.[1] At that time it was under Nek Alam Khan II. He could settle terms with the mediation of Nizam, regarding the collection of revenues from the neighbouring areas of Broach.[2] By the settlement Damajirao got three fifth share of the revenues and customs of Broach and half the share of revenues of Jambusar, Dahejbara and Kalol pargana. This arrangement continued for some time, subsequently by another agreement it was modified, which yielded the Gaekwad two third of the revenues.[3] At a later date during the partition of Gujarat between Gaekwad and the Peshwa in 1752, Broach and its parganas came in the former's share and Jambusar and Dahejbara in the latter's share.[4]

Broach came under the complete independent authority of the English in November 1772. English settled that Fatehsingrao I, who was enjoying the share of Broach revenues would continue to get the share as before.[5] Later at the instance of the English in 1775, Raghunath Rao promised to secure to the English, the Gaekwad's share in the pargana of

1. Mirat. P.602.
2. G.B.. Vol.II, pp.131 to 133.
3. Ibid.Vol.I, p.41.
4. Ibid. vol.IX, p.266.
5. Treaties Vol.VIIIpart I, No.196p.23.
   Treaty between Fatehsingrao Gaekwad and English on 12th Jan. 1773.

Broach. It was subsequently given by Fatehsingrao I to the English.[1] Fatehsingrao tried hard to get back Broach afterwards from the English, but could not succeed in his venture. Ministers at Poona also did not agree that any such power of giving grants or cessions ever vested in Fatehsingrao. But Hornby, the English Governor of the Presidency of Bombay did not agree with this argument. Any how by the treaty of Purandhar, English were to restore to the Marathas all those places in the Gujarat province including Broach, which were ceded by Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao to the English. Regarding the return of pargana of Broach which was ceded by Fatehsingrao, the English agreed to return it provided Fatehsingrao Gaekwad could establish that he had no power of authority to make such cessions, independently. Fatehsingrao Gaekwad could not do this as by establishing the above fact he would have come under the direct control of Peshwa. By subsequent treaties, the cession of Broach was confirmed. Fatehsingrao, inspite of all efforts failed to restore Broach in his hold. Later by the treaty of Salbai, Broach was handed over to Mahadji Sindhia by the English.[2]

Revenues of Khambhat (Cambay).

Khambhat (Cambay) was an important sea port during the early days. The English had established factories in that area

1. B.P.D. File No.3, p.127.
   Treaties Vol.VIII,part I, No.2, p.23.
2. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.133, dt.6.6.1782.

and were carrying on the trade. During the Mughal rule, here too, the Mughals appointed governors who were managing the administration and were collecting the revenues. As the Mughal influence declined during the early part of eighteenth century, the Marathas made raids on Khambhat (Cambay) too for the collection of revenues.

Momin Khan I was the governor of Khambhat (Cambay) managing its administration. He had good relations with Damajirao II and so there was no trouble in the collection of revenues. They were peacefully collected by Mughal governor and tranquility prevailed.

In the year 1743, Muftakhir Khan got the royal orders for the viceroyalty of Gujarat with the title of Momin Khan II. But the deputy viceroy of the province Jawan Mard Khan decided not to give up the authority he was holding after Momin Khan I. Under such circumstances Muftakhir Khan had to seek the assistance of Rangoji, Damajirao's deputy at Ahmedabad. An alliance was made and the terms were settled that the Marathas would get half the share from the revenue of Khambhat (Cambay) city was compensation for the Viramgam which had been surrendered to Muftakhir Khan in the times of Fidauddin Khan's viceroyalty.[1]

1. G.B. Vol.I, p.47. Letter dt.18th October 1743. "Nizam Shah not caring to stand a siege against the Ganims has purchased Rangoji's friendship by allowing him half the revenue of Cambay".

After Partition Treaty of 1752, between Peshwa and Damajirao Gaekwad revenues and territories were all divided equally among them. Revenues and customs of Khambhat (Cambay) were also divided.[1] This was followed by an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the Marathas to take the city of Khambhat (Cambay)[2]. Though the attempt made was not successful still the Marathas could settle terms with Momin Khan II in 1753. By this settlement they got the revenues of Chorasi pargana and a sum for the Ghasdana (forage money) over and above the amount of Rs.10,000/- which had been forced by Raghunath Rao from Momin Khan II. Momin Khan II tried unsuccessful attempts to take Ahmedabad in 1758. The Gaekwad thwarted the attempts and the Marathas could secure Ahmedabad. Momin Khan offered terms of negotiations. It was settled that Marathas would get half the customs of Khambhat (Cambay) as they were receiving earlier. These terms were properly attested by Damajirao II.[3] Later the minor revenue disputes arising between Fatehsingrao and the governor of Khambhat (Cambay) were settled by the mediation of the English.

Tributes from Kathiawad.

The peninsula of Kathiawad was divided into a number of small districts of unequal size. Due to its position it was never completely subjugated. The Mughals however attacked the

1. G.B. Vol.I, p.105.
2. Mirat. p.753.
3. Ibid. p.850.
   G.B. Vol.I, p.117.

peninsula piece meal for the purpose of collection of revenues. This type of collection suited very well to the Marathas also.

Senapati Khanderao Dabhade made early raids in Gujarat extending upto Kathiawas in the early eighteenth century. Damajirao accompanied in such incursions and later Pilajirao too carried successful incursions for the collection of revenues in Kathiawad. The expeditions were known as 'Mulukgiri' expeditions.

Mulukgiri system meant collection of tribute by systematised military operations. The Mughals and the Marathas both found it advantageous to follow a system of successive expeditions rather than to incure the large expenses of permanently occupying the peninsula maintaining the army which would necessarily haveto be a large one. This system had its own drawbacks. When the chiefs of that regions were powerful enough to offer the resistance, they would always resist. Thus the amount realised was usually variable depending upon the power possessed by the collector of the tribute. This tribute was generally realised by irregular troops. The period of this action was the harvesting season. As the years passed, certain rules and customs were set for its operation and to regulate this practice. On the approach of the army, if the chief would not resist, it was his duty to send his agent to

find a settlement as early as possible. Under the Maratha Government it was dealt directly with the chiefs and these local chiefs considered the sovereignty and authority of the ruler whom they paid tribute.[1] Under the Gaekwad government the Mulukgiri tribute in Kathiawad was collected under two heads Jamabandi, the tribute proper and Kharafat the extra levies.

During Damajirao Gaekwad's tenure it was a regular systemetised practice of levying the tribute in Kathiawad depending upon the ability of the concerned chief, to pay the amount demanded by the organiser of the expedition. Hence it would be observed that Mulukgiri was in fact a permanent military contribution. It was considered a legitimate exercise of a lawful sovereignty. Gaekwad rulers considered this system of realising tribute a valuable addition to the income of the state, though in its execution military force was employed.

Damajirao II achieved a firm footing in the collection of revenues in Kathiawad. He got few districts in Kathiawad in dowry in his marriage with the daughter of the chief of Lathi state in Kathiawad[2]. Later he expanded the revenues of Kathiawad by his efforts.

1. Appendix III.
2. Sarsubai Office (Revenue Department), File No.360.

The revenues obtained from Kathiawad were divided equally between Gaekwad and Peshwa after the Partition Treaty of 1752. Even after the division of the revenues in Kathiawad, the income from the peninsula was a valuable addition in the Maratha finances. During the later period of Fatehsingrao Gaekwad's rule, his brother Manajirao managed the collection of revenues of Kathiawad.

CHAPTER VI: SUCCESSION DISPUTE

The rival claimants:

The death of Damajirao II in 1768 led to a dispute for 'gaddi' in the Gaekwad family. The two claimants were - Govindrao Gaekwad and Sayajirao Gaekwad. The claim of Sayajirao was based on the fact that he was the eldest son of Damajirao. Govindrao based his claim on hism mother, Manubai's seniority. Though Govindrao was younger to Sayajirao, his mother was the seniormost wife of Damajirao. It was the point to be decided whether eldest son should be given the right of succession or eldest wife's son should succeed the 'gaddi'.

Support and interest of the other members of the Gaekwad family:

Within the Gaekwad family Sayajirao was supported by his younger brother Fatehsingrao Gaekwad, who was undoubtedly the most capable of Damajirao's sons. The questions may arise why he supported the cause for his brother and did not try for succession for himself. Fatehsingrao was clever enough to assess the situation. Being younger to Sayajirao, he himself couldnot enter in the dispute for the 'gaddi'. He sided with Sayajirao, who was of feeble nature and Fatehsingrao could administer the state by himself in his brother's name.[1]

1. Wallace R., Guicowar and his Relations with the British Government, Bombay 1863 (hereinafter abbreviated as L. Wallace) p.36.
"Sayaji, however nor the Govindrao was the eldest born son, and he being of feeble character, submitted to the management of his uterine brother, Fatehsing a man of energy and talent, who being on the spot on Damaji's death, placed his brother on the throne and assumed regency".

Govindrao was supported by his uncle Khanderao Gaekwad, the Jagirdar of Kadi[1]. Khanderao's intentions in helping Govindrao might have been because of Raghunath Rao's favour and Mahadji Sindhia's backing to Govindrao. At that time Govindrao's position seemed to be very sound due to the support to him from two powerful chiefs of the Poona Court. But finally the events turned in favour of Fatehsingrao and in the later part of the contest Khanderao also changed the allegiance to Fatehsingrao.[2]

Among the two claimants, Sayajirao was at Baroda[3]. Fatehsingrao was also in Gujarat. Their physical presence in their dominions at that time made their position strong. They immediately secured Baroda which they did not leave the hold till the last. Govindrao at that moment was at Poona imprisoned by Peshwa during the war at Dhodup in 1768. Owing to his timely presence at Poona, Govindrao could obtain from the Peshwa his recognition to the succession.[4]

Interest of the outside parties viz. English and Poona durbar:

The succession dispute led to outside intervention primarily to further the selfish interest of the parties. The main parties

1. Forbes, Vol.II, p.84.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.185.
2. Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.280.
   Forbes, Vol.II, p.88.
3. Ibid. Vol.II, p.86.
   Grant Duff., Vol.II, p.280.
4. G.B. Vol.II, pp.26-27.
   Sardesai, Vol.II, pp.531 & 532.

which stood to gain by fishing in troubled waters were the Poona durbar and the English. Briefly the interest of these parties may be considered.

Attitude of the English:

By 1769 English had almost established themselves in northern part of India. In this western part of the country also they had just acquired certain places of importance from the Mughals. They were busy in consolidating their power over there.[1] This may be the reason why in the beginning they did not take active part in the contest of power between the two rival brothers. But as the Gaekwad dominions were in the very neighbourhood of the English territories, they could not remain aloof for a long time from the situation developing in that area arising out of the rivalry of the two Gaekwad brothers. There were many factors which led the English to enter into the contest. Within the short period of the rule, Fatehsingrao proved himself to be a very successful and powerful administrator.[2] The English did not want a conflict with him. To this effect the English authorities at Bombay gave instructions to their factors at Broach.[3] On the other hand Raghunath Rao, being friendly with the English, wanted them to become an ally of Govindrao, Raghunath Rao was offering very

1. Selections.H.S. Vol.I, p.xxvi, Introduction.
2. Forbes, Vol.II, p.84.
3. G.B. Vol.II, p.158.
   Selections M.S., Vol.I, pp.393 & 394.

lucrative terms to the English for their assistance, which included not only revenues but also the grant of land near their settlements.

Another specific reason for English to enter into the contest at this juncture was to safeguard their interests and Company's own territories, as the rival parties were encamping just adjacent to the borders of the English settlements.[1]

The position of Poona durbar and Peshwa's interests:

Since the times of Shahu, dissensions and disputes with Tarabai and the Chatrapati led to the reins of power passing from the royal dynasty to the hands of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath, on whom Shahu depended considerably. It was natural for Senapati to resent this change. In consequence both Khanderao Dabhade and Trimbakrao Dabhade rebelled against the authority of Peshwa.

Here it is relevant to give the background in reference to the relation with Peshwa and Gaekwad. As early as in 1706[2] Gujarat was raided by the Marathas for the collection of tributes only. Subsequently these raids had taken different shape when these Maratha chiefs tried to establish their hold along with collection of revenues. Chatrapati Shahu appointed

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.189.
2. Selections H.S. Vol.I, p.248.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.433.

Khanderao Dabhade incharge of Gujarat province for collection of Maratha dues from Mughals. Dabhade and his lieutenant. Gaekwad laboriously won the territories in Gujarat for the Maratha empire. But the Peshwa after coming in power must not have liked another strong contestant viz. Dabhades. So he manipulated to secure the rights of the collection of Chauth in Gujarat from the Mughal viceroy of the province and also the authority from the Chatrapati,[1] though this right was previously given to Dabhade by the Chatrapati. On this point in 1731 Senapati Dabhade, Pilajirao Gaekwad and many other dissatisfied Maratha chiefs had rebelled against Peshwa's superiority.[2]

After the decline of the power of Senapati Dabhade, the Gaekwad established themselves. Like Dabhade who never liked Peshwa's intervention in Gujarat, Gaekwad also resented the demand of the share in the conquests of the province, because it affected his power. The main cause of conflict between the Gaekwad and the Peshwa was on the collection of Chauth and possession of conquered territories in Gujarat. In securing these territories, Gaekwad had taken a foremost part.[3]

1. Mirat. p.455.
2. G.B. Vol.I, p.11.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter Nos.12,13 & 14.
3. G.B. Vol.I, p.1.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, Letter No.2.

After Shahu's death the question of succession arose at Satara, This infact changed the leadership from Satara to Poona. Tarabai claimed the rights for her grandson, whose legitimacy was doubted by the Peshwa and his followers, who put forward the claims of Mudhoji Bhonsle of Nagpur. As the illegitimacy of Tarabai's grandson could not be proved, the Peshwa and his followers adopted other political measures. When Tarabai came to know about the intentions of Peshwa, she opened the front against him and called Damajirao Gaekwad II for her help. Damajirao readily accepted the call and went to Satara for her assistance. Similar dessensions were there at Poona also between the Peshwa's successor Madhavrao and his uncle Raghunath Rao. But inspite of all those differences, having all the resources of the vast Maratha empire in his hand, the Peshwa inflicted a heavy defeat on Damajirao II. Forced by circumstances, Damajirao had to accept the authority of Peshwa.[1] Although after the I Partition Treaty the Gaekwad had secured the rights for independent administration in Gujarat, yet for all practical purposes he was subordinate to the Poona court. The details of this conflict has been discussed in earlier Chapter III & IV.

The Peshwa, thus had secured the right of approving the appointment of the successor to the Baroda gaddi. So when the

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.55
   Forbes, Vol.II, pp.84-85.

dispute arose over the succession between the two Gaekwad brothers, they were under the obligation of Peshwa to abide the arbitration. This was the best opportunity for Peshwa to divide the family interests of Gaekwad. It was to be decided by the Poona court whether the eldest son or the eldest wife's son should be given the right of succession to the 'gaddi'.

As a rule and the precedence Sayajirao being the eldest son should have been given the right of succession to the gaddi. But Govindrao took advantage of his presence in Poona and through the good offices of Mahadji Sindhia and Raghunath Rao, secured the right of the succession for himself. A question arises as to why did Raghunath Rao favour Govindrao's cause and did not support the just cause of Sayajirao. Sayajirao, himself, was of a feeble nature but he had the support and influence of his brother Fatehsingrao, who was considered to be very shrewed and clever. Under such circumstances it might not have been possible for Raghunath Rao to have a full control over Sayajirao. Govindrao would have been definitely a better ally as he was considered to be a good soldier[1], but of weak nature. Govindrao would always feel obliged to Raghunath Rao for this favour. This contention of

1. Forbes, Vol.II, p.86.
   H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.106.
   Govindrao was entrusted with the military arrangements for many parganas by his father Damajirao II.

of Raghunath Rao proved to be true at the time of the contest between him and the ministerialists when Govindrao stood firmly with Raghunath Rao[1]. The point advocated in Govindrao's favour was that his mother was the seniormost wife of Damajirao II, so the right of succession should go to her son. Though it was not justifiable but some how he could manipulate the affairs in his favour. But Madhavrao was clever to realise the mistake in his decision, still he decided that the succession to the throne along with the title of Sena Khas Khel and military affairs would go to Govindrao[2] and the right to look after the civil administration of the state be entrusted to Sayajirao and Fatehsingrao.[3] This gave much scope to Sayajirao and Fatehsingrao to strengthen their position at home.[4]

Change of orders in favour of Sayajirao I:

After strengthening his position in the state Fatehsingrao went to Poona and pleaded his brother's right for the 'gaddi'. With the help of Nana Phadnavis and Ramshastri, who were much respected ministers of Poona Durbar, Fatehsingrao could succeed to secure the succession orders in favour of his brother Sayajirao. Ramshastri gave his opinion that Sayajirao, being

1. G.B. VolII, pp.246-249,
   Forbes, p.87.
2. Sardesai, Vol.II, p.531.
   H.S.B.S.R. VolI, letter No.133.
3. Ibid. Vol.II, letter No.13.
4. Ibid. letter Nos.3,4,5,6,7,8, 11, 14, 17 & 23.

the eldest son, should be given the right for the succession. Peshwa Madhavrao I had a great regard and faith in these ministers. So the previous orders were cancelled and Sayajirao obtained the sanction from the Poona Durbar as a lawful owner of the 'gaddi' with the title of Sena Khas Khel. Fatehsingrao was given the Regency of the state.[1] When Govindrao got the succession rights earlier he had to pay a certain amount to the Poona court as the 'Nazar' and other dues which came to nearly to about fifty lakhs of rupees. But now Sayajirao I had to pay all that amount again. Further he had to give two lakhs of rupees annually and the taluka of Padra to Govindrao.

In 1770 there was an internal conflicts in the Poona durbar itself between the Peshwa Madhavrao and his uncle Raghunath Rao. For a short time only the unrest subsided between the two under the able command of Madhavrao but Raghunath Rao was not keeping quiet. He secretly made plans with Mostyn, the English agent at Poona, to fulfill his interests. After the death of Madhavrao I, the course of events changed very fast at Poona. Earlier in 1769, Raghunath Rao supported Govindrao to secure the succession. Intervention of Ramshastri later changed the whole course of events and Sayajirao was proclaimed Sena Khas Khel. But Fatehsingrao's apprehensions were that in future if any opportunity arose and

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.174.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.467.
   G.B. Vol.III, pp.28-29.
   Forbes, Vol.II, p.86.

Raghunath Rao secured powers at Poona, he would definitely promote Govindrao's cause. So on his return from Poona Fatehsingrao thought ita political game to gain the support of the English, just to strengthen his position against Govindrao. But he had put a condition that this alliance will be valid only if Raghunath Rao took any action against him, otherwise he would not like to rupture the relations with the Peshwa. This treaty could not be approved by the Bombay Government at that time, but was drafted and sanctioned by the chief at Broach on behalf of Bombay Government.[1]

Reversal of orders in favour of Govindrao:

In 1773 Raghunath Rao got the Peshwaship after the death of Madhavrao I and Narainrao's murder. Towards the end of 1773 and prior to the birth of Madhavrao II, Raghunath Rao had already realised that the opposition of ministers at Poona durbar was growing against him. So he tried to have as many supporters as possible in the durbar.[2] The situation at Poona brought the change in Gaekwad Government also. Raghunath Rao, in order to gain an ally in his struggle for supremacy, again reversed the orders in favour of Govindrao.[3] This change of xxxxx order created a great deal of confusion. Fatehsingrao

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.23.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.168.
   M.D.L. p.291. dt.24.9.1773.
2. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.37.
3. G.B. Vol.II, p.179.

was determined not to lose his hold of those places, which were under his authority. On the other side Govindrao had the power of Peshwa behind him.[1]

The Ministers at Poona did not like the moves of Raghunath Rao in his attempts to gain power for himself and were disgusted with him. But in the absence of a lawful successor to the seat of Peshwaship, they were helpless. Raghunath Rao being the only person in the direct lineage, automatically got the Peshwaship. But with the birth of Madhavrao II, on 18th April 1774,[2] the whole situation changed again. With great enthusiasm ministers came forward to declare layality to the infant Peshwa who got the robes,when only forty days old,from the Chatrapati. Already Fatehsingrao was on ministerialists side and from the very beginning Govindrao was loyal to Raghunath Rao who remained in firm league with him till last.[3] The two stalwarts of Poona durbar, Mahadji Sindhia and Sakharam Bapu who were till then the strong supporters of

1. M.D.L. pp. 297 & 298.
   Mostyn's information to William Shaw dated 3rd Jan. 1774 about Raghunath Rao's granting Govindrao the title of Sena Khas Khel and the Subaship of Gujarat instead of Fatehsingrao.

   Gaz.B.S. Vol.I, p.471.

   G.B. vol.II, p.179.
2. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, Letter No.41.
   Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.264.
   S.P.D. Vol.V, letter No.49.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, p.46.
3. G.B. Vol.II, pp.246 & 247.

Raghunath Rao, also changed the front with the other ministers for a just cause. With the intervention of these two, Raghunath Rao thought it wise to settle the terms with the ministerialists. He was granted some concession by the Peshwa. Gaekwad affairs were also accommodated by the new Peshwa. Again Sayajirao got the title of Sena Khas Khel and the possession of the Gaekwad dominions south of river Mahi. Govindrao was given the country north of Mahi.

For a short while it seemed that things might settle down peacefully. While the negotiation with Raghunath Rao were in progress he fled away and took shelter with Govindrao on 3rd January 1775,[1] near Baroda in Gujarat. With this the contest shifted from Poona to Gujarat and brought the Gaekwads to the forefront. In the beginning what seemed only a family fued between the two Gaekwad brothers, took an important political significance.

Situation in Gujarat due to Raghunath Rao's support to Govindrao and ministers' help to Fatehsingrao.

Till 1773, apparently the things were going on smoothly in the Gaekwad state. But when Raghunath Rao usurped the power at Poona and granted the succession to Govindrao, the whole affair was left into utter confusion. Fatehsingrao was

1. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.49.
   Selections.M.S., Vol.I, p.254.

not ready to leave the possession of his dominions which were granted to him by the previous regime at Poona. Govindrao armed with Raghunath Rao's support, started for the possession of Gaekwad dominions with the use of force.[1] He started his march from Poona to Gujarat along with his own men and Raghunath Rao's forces. He also brought a recommendatory letter from Raghunath Rao to the English for their assistance[2]. Songadh being the strong hold of Gaekwads, Govindrao wanted to get hold of it first and sent a detachment towards it. But Fatehsingrao came to know about it well in advance through his intelligence sources and promptly counteracted the move. He sent his forces towards Songadh to stop the movements of Govindrao by putting blockade near the Ghats[3]. When Govindrao could not succeed to reach Songadh due to blockade he hastened his march towards Baroda. As a result both the parties came very close to each other near Broach.

In the first encounter, Govindrao got a decisive victory over Fatehsingrao at Rajpipla on the banks of the river Narbada near Shuklatirth.[4] By 1st March 1774 Govindrao took possession of Padra and all the contiguous Gaekwad parganas surrounding Baroda. Fatehsingrao's jurisdiction remained only in Baroda,

1. Forbes, Vol.II, p.86.
2. M.D.L. p.297.
3. Ibid. pp.297 & 298.
4. G.B. Vol.II, p.182.
   M.D.L., p.335 dt.21.2.1774.

Patan and some other districts in Kathiawad[1]. Govindrao was in much better position by holding all the open country around Baroda, and consequently had the collections of the revenue[2]. As Govindrao's army closely surrounded Baroda, provisions became scarce in the town. And it was speculated that any moment Fatehsingrao may surrender.

Just at that time situation took a favourable turn for Fatehsingrao. The birth of Madhavrao II and his accession to the Peshwaship proved to be a turning point in the contest for the succession of the Gaekwad brothers. Fatehsingrao was already attached with the ministerialists. He secured back the order for authority in Gujarat from the new Peshwa. From the month of March 1774 till August 1774 no new changes took place in the war between the two brothers. The matters between the two remained more or less in the same state of affairs viz. Govindrao holding the open country around Baroda and Fatehsingrao within the walls of the city. The ministerialists joined hands with Fatehsingrao to punish Raghunath Rao, who fled towards Gujarat and was given shelter by Govindrao, The ministerialists decided to establish Fatehsingrao in Gujarat. With that purpose a force of 5000 men was sent from Poona to assist Fatehsingrao.

Intervention of English into the contest:

Though Govindrao was holding all the open country around Baroda, but his authority could only be established fully if

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.185.
2. Ibid, pp.184 & 195.

the administration of the city also came in his control. Due to the prolonged war, Govindrao was short of resources both in money and in ammunitions. At this juncture Govindrao needed the help of the English and hastened his efforts to get it[1]. Govindrao was sure that if English would join him with their men and artillery, he would succeed to get the control of Baroda. And once he was able to reduce Baroda, his authority would be established fully. He would be in a better position to help his patron Raghunath Rao as he would be able to spare his army from Gujarat. English artillery and Govindrao's forces would make a formidable army which would make Raghunath Rao to take the field against the minister's party[2].

Earlier in 1773, when the war between Govindrao and Fatehsingrao started, both wanted English assistance in terms of men and ammunition. But English very cleverly were maintaining neutrality by delaying the word of assurance to any of the two on some pretext or the other. Though Fatehsingrao's position was not very satisfactory at that moment, still he hoped he would be able to fare well with the help of the ministerial army, which had already arrived in Gujarat. On the other hand it appeared by the circumstances discussed below that Govindrao may shortly attain the Gaekwad Government[3], as

1. B.P.D. File No.1 pp.31 & 34.
2. G.B. Vol.II, p.225.
3. Ibid. p.182.

Raghunath Rao was trying hard with the English to obtain assistance.

Treaty of Surat 1775 between English and Raghunath Rao.

It has been described earlier that Raghunath Rao fled from Poona and took shelter with Govindrao in Jan.1775. Soon after that Raghunath Rao decided his strategy. He hastened his efforts to secure the English assistance. The English could very well understand Raghunath Rao's eagerness for power. So they heavily bargained in return for their assistance.A Treaty was signed in 1775 by Raghunath Rao and ratified by English at Bombay[1]. By this treaty which is known as the treaty of Surat, Raghunath Rao not only gave up his own possessions but by the 5th and 6th article of this treaty he gave to the English the revenue of Broach pargana which belonged to Gaekwad. This meant a great financial sacrifice for Govindrao. In these diplomatic negotiations Gaekwad was not even consulted what to say of taking an active part in the negotiations[2]. Raghunath Rao knew it very well that Govindrao would not refuse his orders as the latter was in a dire need of his assistance. This important feature gave a new orientation to the Gaekwad contest which henceforth merged into the struggle for supremacy between Raghunath Rao and the ministeria-

1. Selections, M.S., Vol.I, pp.212-215.
   B.P.D. File No.1, p.121.
   Gaz.B.S. Vol.II, p.471.
2. G.B. Vol.II. 235.
   Sardesai. Vol.III, p.49.

lists party. Raghunath Rao also promised to cede to the English the Peshwa's share of revenues of many places within the English settlements.

Broach revenues belonged to Gaekwads entirely. But Raghunath Rao promised, on behalf of Govindrao, that he would procure the 'Sanad' for it. Although Raghunath Rao promised to procure the authority, it seemed difficult to get the 'Sanad' formally as the ministers at Poona considered Fatehsingrao the successor and not Govindrao. On the contrary Govindrao was sure that if the got the English support, he could definitely reduce Baroda. Once Baroda is reduced, the authority would be in his hands[1]. Raghunath Rao also tried to convince English that once he is established as Peshwa at Poona, he would be able to settle matters of Fatehsingrao with Govindrao and establish peace between them. It would not be difficult for him to obtain their consent and proper 'Sanad' for Broach revenues[2]. On the part of the English, they were also quite eager to have a settlement with Raghunath Rao, as they were getting lasting advantages by the alliance with him. They were offered revenue worth rupees twenty lakhs which would make their settlement on the west coast quite independent irrespective of finances from the Bengal Presidency[3].

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.224.
   B.P.D., File No.1, pp.31-34.
2. G.B. Vol.II, p.216.
3. Ibid. p.198.

A treaty was drafted between the English and Raghunath Rao. English could realise it well that Raghunath Rao is in a dire need for help to establish himself at Poona Government and to defeat his opponent. This is clear from the fact that the initial four drafts of the treaty were not approved. Raghunath Rao later gradually accepted all their demands and then finally the fifth draft of the treaty was accepted and approved by the English, though signed much later. The English governor of Bombay Presidency did not know about the arrival of the ministerial army in Gujarat in pursuit of Raghunath Rao and to support Fatehsingrao. The English governor had already sent a force under Col.Keating for Raghunath Rao's support though the treaty was not by then formally signed. But before the forces of Col.Keating arrived Raghunath Rao was defeated near Vasad. His flight precipitated the matters, as Raghunath Rao asked protection from the English in any of their settlements[1]. Gambier, the English chief at Surat made sincere and frantic efforts for materialising the treaty as early as possible as the situation was moving fast out of Raghunath Rao's hands for want of any help to him. He sent letter to the English governor at Bombay to finalise the matters at an earliest[2]. Gambier's assessment was that Raghunath Rao's affairs were not desperate as Govindrao Gaekwad and Khanderao Gaekwad had still

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.240.
   Malet's letter to Gambier of 18th Feb.1775.
2. Ibid. Vol.II, p.241.

not deserted him and were on his side with a considerable force. In case the English joined him openly, Nawab of Khambhat (Cambay) will also assist. An open support from the English will strengthen Raghunath Rao's position considerably. Anyhow the treaty could not be concluded before March, and on March 7th 1775, it was finally signed and fully executed by Raghunath Rao and ratified by Bombay Government on 16th March 1775.[1]

Fatehsingrao's success over Govindrao

Govindrao's position became very weak by supporting Raghunath Rao. Sindhia and Holkar who earlier assured their support to Raghunath Rao and Govindrao later joined hands with ministerialists. A formidable force under Haripant Phadke, Mahadji Sindhia and Malharrao Holkar was sent from Poona to pursue Raghunath Rao and to assist Fatehsingrao. On their near approach to Baroda Govindrao raised the siege of Baroda. Both he and Raghunath Rao retreated with their whole force beyond Mahi[2]. Thus the arrival of Raghunath Rao which was considered much in favour of Govindrao has acutally ruined his affairs and had been the cause of losing all the progress, he had made during those ten months. This also prevented him from recovering the major part of the revenues from the Gaekwad parganas of which he had been thus long in possession.[3]

1. B.P.D. File No.1. p.64.
   Selections M.S. Vol.I, p.211.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.249-254.
   Treaties, Vol.VI, p.20, No.5, Part I.
2. G.B. Vol.II, p.237.
3. Ibid. p.230.

For Fatehsingrao, the turn of events proved very favourable. Arrival of ministerial army in Gujarat and its support to Fatehsingrao gave immense scope for speculations about his success.[1] As soon as Govindrao raised the siege of Baroda on the approach of ministerial army, Fatehsingrao immediately took possession of all the Gaekwad territories from river Mahi to the ghats of Songadh where Sayajirao was at that time in command of considerable force. He did not loose time in pursuing Raghunath Rao and Govindrao with the help of ministerialist's forces. In pursuit at the crossing of river Mahi near Vasad at the village Adas, a severe action was fought between the two rival forces. Fatehsingrao got victory over Raghunath Rao and Govindrao on 17th Feb.1775[2]. Raghunath Rao fled towards Khambhat (Cambay) and later in March 1775 signed a treaty with the English. Govindrao and Khanderao proceeded towards Ahmedabad and took refuge in the fort of Kapadvanj. In quick succession Fatehsingrao proceeded towards Nadiad and captured it and its contiguous country. He then again joined the ministerial forces near Kapadvanj.

English attitude towards Govindrao after Fatehsingrao's victory.

This victory at Adas over Govindrao and Raghunath Rao greatly enhanced Fatehsingrao's position. He secured a special

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.220.
2. Ibid. p.242.&263.

position in ministerial camp. Simultaneously English also reviewed their policy about giving support to Govindrao. They never wanted to take a risk of displeasing Fatehsingrao[1]. Govindrao with Khanderao secured a safe position in the strongholds of Kapadvanj having a considerable troops with them[2]. Allies of Raghunath Rao fought valiantly against the army of ministerialists but the flight of Raghunath Rao very much undermined their position. Ministerial forces took advantage of the situation and Fatehsingrao could recover whatever he had lost in the previous few months. Fatehsingrao's thorough knowledge of the place helped him a lot.

This situation narrated above caused unrest in the British camp too. It was a known fact that English were friendly with Raghunath Rao. Their capturing Salsette[3] which belonged to the Peshwa annoyed the then ruling party at Poona. Moreover Fatehsingrao was whole heartedly supporting the ministerialists, whose dominions were encircling the English settlements in Gujarat. Accordingly English had to decide whether they should give a helping hand to Govindrao and displease Fatehsingrao who was still maintaining friendly terms with the English[4] or they should remain neutral. But the

1. G.B. Vol.II, pp.245-246.
2. Ibid. pp.247-248.
3. Forbes, Vol.I, p.452.
4. G.B. Vol.II, p.231.

situation developed in such a way that it was not possible for them to remain neutral. Raghunath Rao had already reached Surat and the English decided to help him. As Govindrao was sincerely attached to Raghunath Rao's side, he was considered to be a more eligible neighbour on English frontiers than Fatehsingrao who possessed the Gaekwad dominions. The English thought that Govindrao would cede the places of British interests more readily and would be a better and fitter barrier to all the English company's dominions on this side of the country. As Fatehsingrao was strongly supporting the ministerialists so leaving Baroda in his hand was also not in their interests.

English efforts to influence Fatehsingrao to change the front:

Inspite of all these pros and cons, English wanted to deal with Fatehsingrao in a friendly way, lest he may not disturb the Brisish dominion's tranquility. The English chief at Broach and Col.Keating, the commanding officer of English force assisting Raghunath Rao, considered Fatehsingrao the life and soul of ministerial forces in Gujarat owing to his through knowledge of the country and its people. So they tried to distract him from the ministerial interest and made overtures of a peace treaty between him and Raghunath Rao. Keating sent letter to Fatehsingrao reminding him of the friendship which subsisted earlier between English and Gaekwad. As a friendly

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.231.

gesture they wanted him to be aware of the danger in siding with ministerialists as Raghunath Rao is likely to succeed as Peshwa. By the replies that Keating received from Fatehsingrao it was thought that he was amenable to suggestions. In a letter of 23rd April 1775 addressed to Hornby, Col. Keating wrote about the terms settled for a proposed treaty between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao[1] and the necessity of making the English a party to it. Though the treaty was not signed by Fatehsingrao[2], but it was considered to be a favourable move on the part of English to influence Fatehsingrao to change in their favour.[3]

Strict secrecy was maintained in dealing with Fatehsingrao still the move leaked out and reached to Haripant Phadke. This created a distrust about Fatehsingrao's loyalty to ministerialist's cause. As a result, they started keeping a secret watch over Fatehsingrao's movements[4]. This may be a reason why Fatehsingrao was delaying the ratification of the proposed peace treaty between him and Raghunath Rao. But there were other reasons for the delay also. By this time Fatehsingrao

1. G.B. Vol.II, pp.267, 268 & 269.
   B.P.D. File No.1, p.97.
2. Selections M.S. Vol.I, p.224.
   Forbes, Vol.II, p.87.
   B.P.D., File No.1, p.77.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.270 & 271.
3. Ibid. p.255.
4. Ibid. pp.268 & 269.

and the confederates were getting considerable success. Though the English joined hands with Raghunath Rao and Govindrao, Fatehsingrao and the confederates still considered themselves superior, until they made trial of their forces with the English, Raghunath Rao and Govindrao forces. Another strong reason for delay in ratification of peace treaty may be that at that moment Fatehsingrao was holding all the Gaekwad dominions and was in a very formidable position. By agreeing to sign the peace treaty with Raghunath Rao, he must have been apprehensive that he might have to part some of his dominions to Govindrao in view of Raghunath Rao's strong support to him till then. But delaying the matters in this way Fatehsingrao spoilt his image in the ministerial party as well as in the other camp too. Both considered him as untrustworthy.

Reconciliation between the Gaekwads.

Though overtures of peace were made to Fatehsingrao but, Raghunath Rao was much attached to Govindrao, who would not agree to give up his pretensions to the Gaekwad Government. The English wanted that Raghunath Rao should try to accommodate matters between the two brothers by authorising half the Gaekwad dominions to each of them. But as Fatehsingrao was holding the real authority by possessing the Gaekwad Government, it seemed impossible that he would be contended with the half of the Gaekwad dominions and leave the other half for Govindrao, which he was pressing for a long time. Until Fatehsingrao's

dominions were guaranteed by the English he would not quit the ministerial party.

A question arises as to why the English were so keen about an alliance between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao. It was a fact that the English were always interested to secure the grant of the land revenues. Raghunath Rao had already promised the English to procure the revenues of Broach pargana for them from the Gaekwad. They expected those revenues whether Govindrao secured the possession of Baroda or Fatehsingrao. It was also quite obvious if Fatehsingrao could be won over, automatically the dispute between the two brothers would end and the terms would be settled to satisfy both Govindrao and Khanderao Gaekwad. That was the way they would remain attached to Raghunath Rao inspite of an alliance with Fatehsingrao. The English would also get clear and undisputed possession of Broach revenues, which might not had been possible even if Govindrao got the authority, as Fatehsingrao may claim that again whenever such apportunity arose.

Anyhow as the treaty could not be concluded between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao, the matters remained at the same stage as before. Govindrao and Khanderao were still in firm league with Raghunath Rao[1] and were ready to join him with an army of about 25000 men. In the meantime ministerial forces reached Kheda, creating a hinderance in meeting of

1.G.B. Vol.II, pp.246 to 249, 255, 256 & 258.

the forces of Govindrao and Khanderao with Raghunath Rao's forces Since the forces of Khanderao and Govindrao could not meet, Raghunath Rao, started for Khambhat (Cambay).[1] Col.Keating thought it wise that Govindrao and Khanderao should not move out of the stronghold of Kapadvanj. Rather English and Raghunath Rao should move towards Khambhat (Cambay)[2] and the allies should meet them at Khambhat (Cambay). Though the victorious ministerial forces were there all around, yet Govindrao determined to force a passage to meet Raghunath Rao and theEnglish with his best horses leaving the baggage and inferior force with Khanderao Gaekwad at Kapadvanj. This meeting of the troops of Govindrao with Raghunath Raos army had an added advantage. On 9th April 1775 Govindrao joined Col. Keating.[3]

Ministerialists discomfiture:

On 10th May 1775 English forces alongwith Raghunath Rao's and Gaekwad's forces fought an action with the ministerial army.

1. G.B., Vol.II, p.260.
2. Selections M.S. pp.217-219.
3. G.B. Vol.II, p.269.
   Letter dated 24th April 1775 from Robert Clay to Shaw, gives the date as 9th for the junction of English army with the Raghunath Rao's forces under Sadashiv Ramchandra, Appaji Mahadev, Sakharam Hari and Manaji Pankaria. This intelligence is taken from Lt.Col. Keatings letter of 21st April 1775 to Robert Clay.

Though the ministerial army was repulsed but it was a costly victory for the English and Raghunath Rao[1]. Finally on the plains of Arras on the 18th of May English got a decisive victory over the ministerial army which took to flight towards Malwa.[2] Col.Keating and Raghunath Rao both were anxious to move in pursuit of the enemy as Raghunath Rao got information from his intelligence sources that the ministerialists were divided in their council and were much despirited and confused.[3]

News of joint attack on Poona by Haider Ali and Gopal Rao forced ministers to send some of forces from Gujarat front to Poona. The armed assistance of the English to Raghunath Rao was not a less disturbing factor to the ministerialist. Even that side also did not remain as easy as they thought. Holkar and Sindhia were also now pursuing half-heartedly and it appeared quite possible that they would also not act against Raghunath Rao. In addition to it Fatehsingrao's loyalty was doubted for long who had been secretely making overtures of peace with Raghunath Rao since the English joined him.[4] When English joined Raghunath Rao, the latters affairs were on decline,but

1. Selections, M.S.,Vol.I, pp.223 & 225.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.280.
   Forbes, Vol.I, pp.95-99.
2. Selection M.S. pp.226-229.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.278.
3. Ibid. p.281.
4. Selections M.S. pp.233 & 234.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.272.

with the English support his position seemed more formidable. In this perspective English thought that the grand confederacy will shortly be much weakened if not entirely routed[1]:

With all bright hopes of success, need for money was hard pressing as the troops of Raghunath Rao and Govindrao refused to move further without the payment of arrears. Col. Keating requested the Bombay Government for the grant of money which remained unheard, instead some reinforcement was provided from Broach[2]. To overcome this financial crisis they had an alternative that if Baroda could be secured by Govindrao or if Fatehsingrao came to terms with Raghunath Rao, this problems could be eased atleast for a while. It was immaterial for the Egglish who secured the Gaekwad Government as they were getting the advantage being the intermediary. But as Fatehsingrao seemed to be indifferent about the treaty, they wanted to pursue Govindrao's claims over Baroda, who for his uncertain state of affairs was forced to stick to Raghunath Rao and English.

Govindrao was much eager to reduce Baroda and was pressing the English hard for the siege of Baroda. Keating was thinking of getting great advantages that might arise to the English from

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.272.
2. Selections M.S. pp.226-229.
   G.B. Vol.II, p.278.

this measure. In return of these services which English would render to Govindrao, Keating wanted it to be compensated by the grant of territorial revenues made over to the English in the fullest manner. This Keating anticipated would be quite a valuable acquisition[1]. Govindrao and the English wanted to take advantage of the confused state of ministerialists without giving them a chance to recover. If Baroda was to be attacked just at that moment, monsoon would start and then it would be difficult for a large army to cross the river Tapti to reach near Surat and to encamp for the rest of the monsoon period. So the plans of the reduction of Baroda were put off for some time. Had Baroda been reduced at that time and come under Govindrao's possession, it would have been of a great advantage to the English[2]. Being in the hands of Fatehsingrao, who was so strongly attached to the ministerial cause, Baroda remained a strong hold for the ministerialists activities in Gujarat.

As the circumstances were changed after the glorious action fought by the English, Raghunath Rao and Govindrao at Arras,

1. Selections M.S., pp.226 & 229.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.278 & 224.

2. Ibid. p.295.
   Letter dated 13th July 1775 by Hornby to Keating, Though the treaty was signed between Fatehsingrao, Raghunath Rao and English by this time, yet it appeared by the consultations held at Bombay on 1st August 1775, that this letter was written before the news of the treaty between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao reached Bombay.

   B.P.D. File No.1, p.94.
   Resolution by the Board to reduce Baroda and support Govindrao, dated 12th July 1775.

which forced ministerial army to retreat Fatehsingrao thought it prudent to come to terms with the opposite party with reference to their previous negotiations, which could not materialise earlier. But at this time the situation had totally changed. The English, Raghunath Rao and Govindrao's armies were now gaining victory so they were in a much better position than their opponents. Thus this time they were not that very eager to conclude a treaty with him on the same terms which were offered previously. Moreover now in the light of his previous conduct, they had no faith in his sincerity. But still Keating assured Fatehsingrao that if he really meant it, he will mediate.

Fatehsingrao's treaty with Raghunath Rao.

The alliance of Fatehsingrao with the ministerialists was just a stepping stone to the much coveted leadership in Gujarat. When he realised that ministerial cause was jeopardised, he determined to look after his own interests and again made overtures of peace with Raghunath Rao.

Govindrao was very sincerely pursuing Raghunath Rao's interests, but Fatehsingrao was actually holding the real authority by possessing the Gaekwad Government. If a treaty could be concluded by which Govindrao was also to be satisfied without taking to hostility, Fatehsingrao could make another ally for the support of his cause. After an encounter with

the ministerial forces, the English, Raghunath Rao and Govindrao were encamping near Dabhoi. Fatehsingrao was also encamping nearby. On 1st July, 1775, when Govindrao with his forces was near Baroda, Fatehsingrao made an attempt to hold a conference with him[1]. Finding Fatehsingrao desirous of settling matters on pacific terms with Raghunath Rao, Keating mediated and on 8th July 1775 at Dahdhar the terms of the treaty were settled which were finally signed on 18th July 1775.[2]

The treaty between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao was the crowning success of the former in the struggle for supremacy between Raghunath Rao and Poona ministers as Gujarat area became inactive for the opposite party for the rest of the struggle. Incidently it was also a material gain for the Bombay Government as they got the districts of Chickli, Variav and Koral, in addition to the Gaekwad share of revenues of Broach. These gains to the English were in return to the peace they mediated between the Gaekwad and Raghunath Rao with a guarantee of the safety of their settlements in Gujarat which were surrounded by Gaekwad dominions.

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.290, letter dt.3rd July 1775.
2. Ibid, pp.292, 293 & 296.

   B.P.D. File No.1, p.107, letter from Col.Keating dt.8th July 1775.

   Treaties, Vol.VI, p.306, No.5.

   Forbes, Vol.II, pp. 124, 125 & 129.

Governor General's attitude towards English intervention in Raghunath Rao and Gaekwad's affairs:

The English governor of the Bombay presidency had succeeded to a great extent in his ambitious project by pursuading Fatehsingrao to sign a treaty of friendship with Raghunath Rao by the good offices of Col.Keating. Earlier Raghunath Rao and his allies had started gaining upper hand in the contest and now after securing the assistance of another powerful ally Fatehsingrao, their success seemed to be assured.

The Regulating Act of Parliament of 1774 empowered full and final authority to Governor General Warren Hastings, to regulate the working of all three English Presidencies Viz. Bombay, Madras and Bengal in India. Till then these Presidencies were governed directly by the Home authorities in England. With this change, the chiefs of the presidencies had to take the concurrence from the Governor General and his Council at Calcutta for any action taken by them.

In view of such a great distance from Bombay to Calcutta it was not possible to get the desired orders in time. Bombay authorities served orders in anticipation of the concurrence arriving from Calcutta. It might take months together to

reach a letter from either end.[1] The most glaring instance which created confusion was when the Bombay authorities sent information and details to the Governor General about English assistance, he had already received the information from some other quarter. Hastings latter of 3rd Feb. 1775 which reached Bombay on 4th April 1775[2], clearly shows the reaction of Hastings due to incomplete information he got earlier from other sources. In the absence of actual information which was received from Bombay quite late he gave directive that in future, they should report regularly all the events of their Presidency and seek advise for all their plans and designs.He seemed to be very much annoyed on the information he got about the Bombay troops taking field against the Marathas.

1. G.B. Vol.II, pp.276 & 285.
   Letter from Hornby to Hastings dated 24th May 1775:
   This letter is in reply of Hastings letter of 8th March 1775"....We must here remark that situation as the Governor General and Council of Bengal are at so great a distance, it will be impossible for us at all time to benefit by circumstances, as they fall out provided we always wait for their directions in political matters.We need produce no instance than the letter before us which is dated the 8th March, was received here on 21st inst. and in answer to our advices, treaty with Raghunath Rao would not have concluded and the advantages Company gained by our treaty gone most probably for ever. The legislature indeed, foreseeing the great inconvenience justly provided against it in the late act from which they derived their authority. Thus we make no doubt but these gentlemen will always consider more especially as we can assure them that we shall take no material step in political matters without their concurrence it may be dangerous to postpone for so slong a time coming to a determination".
2. Selections, M.S. Vol.I, p.232.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.264-265.

Bombay authorities reacted sharply to this letter of Hastings. Till December 1774 they were acting independently and came to know about the new Act of Parliament only on 7th December. Hence a letter was sent by Hornby on 31st December 1774, informing the Governor General and his council of the situation and affairs at their end for their satisfaction. He informed the intentions of entering into an alliance with Raghunath Rao.

In response to Hornby's letter of 31st December 1774, Hastings in his letter of 8th March 1775 which reached Bombay on 16th May 1775 had ordered the Bombay Presidency to suspend their negotiations with Raghunath Rao until further instructions being sent to them. But in the meantime the treaty of Surat was signed on 16th March, 1775.

During this period when Governor General was sending letter of his disapproval about the policy adopted by the Bombay Presidency in assisting Raghunath Rao, the confederates viz. Raghunath Rao, Govindrao and the English gained a considerable advantage over the other party. The victory at Arras[1] was followed by further successful advances. Finally in these encounters the ministerial party retreated forwards Malwa. Govindrao, Raghunath Rao and the English speculated to reach

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.280.
   In this letter of 1st June 1775, Hornby writes to Hastings the summary of events after the English joined Raghunath Rao to their victory at Arras on 18th May.

their goal very soon. Taking in view of all this Hornby wrote to Hastings on 24th June 1775, giving further details of their engagements and explaining the situation, their affairs at this end and giving justification for entering into this conflict and the advantages they would be getting out of it[1]. Bombay Presidency's letter of 6th August 1775 to Hastings gives further information, especially about the treaty which had been concluded between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao in July. The English were getting considerable advantages out of it for their mediation in the business[2].

In the meantime Warren Hastings had already disapproved the treaty. He had ordered that Company's forces should be recalled and war should stop, and that negotiations should be started with the Poona's ruling party with whom the English had amicable relations till then. The Governor General had accused Bombay Government for not giving him full details of the nature of affairs and ignoring the commands of the Supreme authority and acting independently[3]. These commands were based on the information secured till 31st May, 1775. Hastings

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.287.
2. Fatehsingrao has made over his right in the revenues of the town and district of Broach, in addition to it, two districts of Koral and Variav also.
3. Selections,M.S., Vol.I, pp.238-249.
   Hastings' letter dated 31st May 1775 to Hornby - This letter reached Bombay on 12th August 1775.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, p.53.
   G.B. Vol.II, pp.295-296.

was totally unaware of the defeat of the Poona troops and that big success of the English, Raghunath Rao and Govindrao at Arras. In the meantime on 10th July Hastings wrote to Poona administration, explaining his stand in the unwise interference of Bombay Government and added that he will soon send an agent of his own to stop the war and negotiate a friendly understanding with the Marathas. In reply to it, Poona Government wrote back on 29th July 1775 informing in detail that Bombay Government had been persuing the cause of a rebel Viz.Raghunath Rao against the legal heir[1].

The effects of invalidation of the treaty of Surat.

Bombay Government made frantic efforts to make the Governor General change his mind. They sent a special agent, Taylor to explain the matters and affairs in the Western Presidency. But all his efforts were of no consequence. The Bombay Government however defied the orders of Governor General Hastings and referred their affairs for decision to the Home authorities in England[2].

Meanwhile in this confusion Raghunath Rao was in despair[3] and his allies Govindrao and Fatehsingrao were equally perturbed.

1. Sardesai, VolIII, pp.52-53 & 54.
2. G.B., VolII, pp.301-302.
   Letter from Bombay to the Court of Directors dated 31st August 1775.
3. Ibid. p.299.
   Letter from Hornby to Raghunath Rao dt.19th August 1775.

Gaekwad contest was also relegated in the background. Hornby informed Keating on 19th August 1775 about the orders of the Governor General and asked him to put halt over his advances. But before getting informations of this change of policy, on the instance of Keating, Fatehsingrao had paid the remaining dues as promised by him under the terms of the treaty[1]. Though Fatehsingrao had paid the major portion of the dues, yet a sum of rupees ten lakhs was still left to be paid. But Fatehsingrao made it very clear that unless he gets certain village which were still in the possession of Govindrao, he would not clear the remaining amount. The English were to secure those villages from Govindrao. It was not possible under those circumstances.

Govindrao was not satisfied with the treaty concluded between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao. As a repercussion of which he was creating disturbances in the Gaekwad parganas and

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.300.
Keatings letter of 21st August 1775 to Hornby: "On 15th August Captain Scott threatened the safety of Baroda ..... This near approach to the town produced hourly assurance from Fatehsingrao of his intended punctuality. But warned by his previous conduct .... Keating did not confided in him and on 17th urged, immediate payment .... till 28th August he gave excuses for delay in payment as Govindrao's armies were ravaging the neighbouring country and due to the intrigues and duplicity of his Diwan. But this day he paid the amount".

M.N.T.C., Vol.XII, Letter No.96.

Rajwade V.K., Marathayanchya Itihasachi Sadhne, Poona 1909 Vol.XII, letter No.96.

adjoining regions to extract the tributes. In Keating's opinion it did not seem advisable to leave that part of the country in only Fatehsingrao's hand to oppose single handedly the devastating armies of Govindrao[1].

The Bombay Presidency wanted Raghunath Rao to fulfil the assurances given to Fatehsingrao, of giving repossession to him of the parganas which Govindrao was still holding. But Raghunath Rao apologised on the pretext that as the English were not in a position to help him, he could not command his authority over Govindrao. Col.Keating stressed that since the English acted as mediators in this treaty and in order to maintain the prestige of the English guarantee, Fatehsingrao should be benefitted by the treaty[2]. As Govindrao was also a related party in this treaty, he wanted Keating to look into

1. G.B. Vol.II, pp.300-301, dt. 30.4.1775.
"....leaving this side of the country and our possessions in it at the mercy of the Peshwa's army with Fatehsingrao alone to oppose them, will all be chsotic, as the recent conduct of Govindrao shows. The only alternative which offer themselves in opposition are in my opinion either to supply Fatehsingrao with stores etc. to expell Govindrac from Gujarat province or remain ourselves on the frontiers of our own parganas, ready to resent any hostilities practised, Fatehsingrao, I have no doubt, would readily share the expenses of our army continuing in this country for the last purpose as his own parganas would be secured by our presence".

2. Ibid, pp.303, 304 & 305.

his interest as an old ally. But due to the interference of the Governor General Govindrao was doubtful regarding Rathunath Rao's assistance to him. Before receiving the orders from Governor General, Raghunath Rao was intending to reduce the district of Ahmedabad for Govindrao with the English assistance. But without English help, Raghunath Rao himself was doubtful in his success. Though earlier Govindrao did not accept the just offers of Fatehsingrao. But later when he realised, the situation had already changed by the interference of the Governor General, he at that moment seemed anxious for an accommodation with Fatehsingrao.

By this treaty with Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao, Govindrao was to get one third of the Gaekwad dominions and rest Raghunath Rao was to provide from Peshwa's share in Gujarat. When the treaty was signed Govindrao seemed satisfied[1]. But as a result of this treaty being disallowed by Hastings the rival Gaekwad brothers were again left to settle their own dispute[2]. On the part of Fatehsingrao, it appeared[5] that he wanted an accommodation with his brother, Govindrao.[3] Fatehsingrao was sincerely abiding the terms of the treaty on his part and seemed perfectly reconciled to the determination of Raghunath Rao to the division of the Gaekwad dominions of which

1. Wallace, p.53.
   Fn: Although Govindrao afterwards receded from the agreement he declared himself satisfied at that time.
2. Imp.Gaz. p.13.
3. B.P.D. File No.1, p.243.

Govindrao was to have one third portion[1]. Fatehsingrao sent the necessary documents to this effect to Col.Keating, by which he granted Govindrao and his heirs one third of the Gaekwad dominions. But he asked Keating not to deliver these places to Govindrao, unless he gives assurance and promise for no further molestation of the remaining part of the Gaekwad territory. Keatings hopes were that the contest seemed to be settled, which would ensure the tranquility in Gujarat province.[2]

English gains were considerable by the treaty of Surat as well as by acting as mediator in the treaty with Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao. English got the revenues of the district and pargana of Broach, including Koral, Variav, Batta and villages in Chorasi pargana near their territory[3]. Though the treaty was annuled, but English did not relinquish the districts which were ceded to them by Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao. This is quite clear by Governor General's letter of 18th Oct. 1775, to Taylor, which he communicated to Bombay Government on 20th Oct. 1775.

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.323.
   Letter from Keating to Hornby dt.22.12.1775.
2. Ibid. p.326,
   Letter from Keating to Hornby dated 28.12.1775.
3. B.P.D. File No.1, pp.237 & 243.

In view of Governor General's orders, Bombay Presidency was not in a position to side either of the Gaekwad brothers, still to protect their interests and possessions in Gujarat, Bombay Government wanted to maintain a status quo with the Gaekwads. With this view Bombay authorities questioned Keating's suggestion for leaving the cause of Govindrao to become in firm alliance with Fatehsingrao[1]. Bombay Government further contended that the previous conduct of Fatehsingrao was far from satisfactory, whereas Govindrao had always remained a staunch ally to Raghunath Rao and the English. Col.Keating's reply to it was quite obvious that Govindrao was not keeping his promises[2]. He was frustrated for not being assured to get what was promised to him. Raghunath Rao too was in great need for money to keep up his struggle. Fatehsingrao was in a much better position to provide Raghunath Rao with funds and seemed quite sincere also. Col. Keating thought that it was easier to get the required money from Fatehsingrao. Moreover Fatehsingrao had shown a keen desire

1. G.B. Vol.II,
   Letter from Keatings to Hornby dated 10.9.1775.

2. B.P.D. File No.1, p.197.
   extract para of a letter from Keating dated 1.10.1775, explaining his view point regarding his change of sentiments for Govindrao.

to accommodate matters with his brother Govindrao[1]. It was certain whatever may be settled between the two brothers, English would not be affected for the grants already made by Fatehsingrao to the English. Inspite of all the efforts done for a reconciliation between Govindrao and Fatehsingrao, a settlement could not be reached until the treaty of Purandhar was signed at Poona between Poona regency and English agent Col. Upton in 1776.

1. B.P.D., File No.1, p.211.

   Ibid. p.225.
   ".... Keatings letter to Hornby dated 24th Nov.1775. who writes that "differences between Fatehsingrao and Govindrao are adjusted except for Petlad which is hoped also to be settled.

   Ibid. letter dt.13.11.1775.
   This letter confirms that Fatehsingrao consented to give Petlad to Govindrao.

   Ibid. p.245.
   Letter dated 29.12.1775. from Bombay to Governor General shows that dispute between Fatehsingrao and Govindrao being nearly compromised.

CHAPTER VII: FATEHSINGRAO GAEKWAD I

Fatehsingrao came into prominence during the succession dispute. All those years when Sayajirao was the lawful successor Fatehsingrao acted as his Regent. During all those events of succession dispute Fatehsingrao looked after the administration of the Gaekwad dominions and consolidated his powers. Actually he was the person who took all the decisions and made policies in Sayajirao's name. As a Regent he had complete authority in his hand to administer the Gaekwad dominions. The dispute for the peshwaship at Poona forced Raghunath Rao to take shelter with Govindrao in Gujarat and ask assistance from the English. The English interfered in Raghunath Rao's affairs and came on terms with him keeping their territorial interests in mind. The subsequent interference of the Governor General forced the English to leave Raghunath Rao's interest and enter into an alliance with the Poona Government. Fatehsingrao had his own interests of the dominions and hence while the treaty of Purandhar was signed he made certain objections the details of which are discussed below.

Treaty of Purandhar.

With the interference of Warren Hastings, the Governor General of India, the hostilities between English and Poona Government ceased. The Bombay Government negotiated for peace[1]

1. Forrest G.W., Selections from the Letters, Despatches and other state papers preserved in the Foreign Department of India (hereinafter abbreviated as Selections F.D.) VolII, p.393.

with the Poona Government. As a result, the treaty of Purandhar was signed on 1st March 1776. By one of the articles of this treaty, it was agreed that the English would return the territories they had conquered in Gujarat and would cease to interfere in the Gaekwad affairs[1]. Gaekwad did not gain any thing particular by this treaty, on the contrary, by the IVth and Vth article of the treaty, Poona Government agreed to give the English all the rights in the share of Broach pargana, which belonged to the Gaekwad. Over and above it, territory worth three lakhs of rupees near Broach was also granted to the English. The parganas of Chikli, Koral, Variav, three villages in the pargana of Chorasi and the village of Batta were to continue in the possession of the English as a security, till the 'Sanads' for the territory worth three lakhs were made over to the English[2]. These places were ceded over to the English by the Gaekwad earlier for their mediation for settling a treaty between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao[3].

After the conclusion of the treaty of Purandhar, Fatehsingrao argued that Broach revenues were surrendered to the English without his consent[4]. Fatehsingrao objected that

1. G.B. Vol.II, p.336.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, p.58.
2. B.P.D. File No.11, from the proceedings of the Govt.Yr.1777.
3. Ibid. File No.1, p.385.
   Extract from para 5 from a letter from the Govt. of Bombay to Col.Upton, dt.21.9.1776.
4. Ibid. File No.1, p.391, para 10 of the letter.

Poona Government was not vested with any power to alienate the Gaekwad possessions. The objection was sustained and by the VIIth article of the treaty, it was agreed that the country ceded by Fatehsingrao Gaekwad would be restored to the Gaekwad provided they could prove that they did not possess power or authority to make such cessions.[1]

This VIIth article was well framed in the interest of both parties viz. the English and the Poona Durbar. In case Gaekwad could prove that they had no power to grant land without Peshwa's permission the precedence may prove dangerous and unfavourable to Fatehsingrao. On the other hand if he did not prove it, he would lose his ceded districts to the English. Thus Gaekwad pleaded his case from another angle that, he had given these districts on the condition that Raghunath Rao would help him to settle amicably against Govindrao. This settlement could not be achieved[2]. The grant of these districts to the English was for their mediation in arranging an alliance between Gaekwad and Raghunath Rao. But this mediation which Fatehsingrao purchased did not have the desired effect. Not only his districts were to be returned

1. Treaties Vol.VI, No.VI. p.27
   H.S.B.S.R. Letter No.57 dated 1.3.1776.
2. B.P.D. File No.1, p.341. from the letter to Upton from the Govt. of Bombay, dated 27th April 1776.
   G.B. Vol.III, p.10.
   From Hornby to Upton, that Fatehsingrao represented from the restoration of his district as conditions of the treaty between him and Raghunath Rao were not fulfilled. He claims that ministers have no power to alienate his possessions.

to him but the money he was forced to pay at Baroda to Col. Keating should also be returned. Gaekwad could not recover either ceded districts or the money paid as a condition of the treaty made with Raghunath Rao in 1775, which was later annuled by the treaty of Purandhar. Though the treaty of Purandhar was finally signed and the peace was restored, yet Bombay Government was secretely giving assurances to Raghunath Rao[1]. Poona Government made complaints to this effect to the Governor General[2].

It has been discussed in the earlier chapter that the differences arising from the Governor General's policy with the Bombay Governor on the issue of the treaty with Raghunath Rao in 1775, prompted the Bombay Government to approach to Court of Directors in England for their opinion. Bombay Government got the approval from the Court of Directors regarding their policy towards the Marathas. The Court of Directors supported the Bombay Government in their war against the Poona ministers[3]. By that time treaty of Purandhar had already been signed in 1776 and English were bound to honour it. Still

1. Selections F.D. Vol.II, pp.573 & 574.
   Selections M.S. Vol.I, p.265.
   Wallace, pp.55-56.
2. Sardesai Vol.III, p.77.
3. G.B. Vol.II, p.337. Despatch of 1st April 1775.

Raghunath Rao was given fresh assurances for the English assistance[1] and a secret pact for it was made with him. Hastings also agreed to send a detachment of troops from Calcutta to Bombay which would be of great advantage in Raghunath Rao's affairs. Diplomatically Hastings requested Poona Government to grant the passage for his battalion through the Maratha territory pretending that these troops were sent to counteract French designs. This request was not granted on the basis of earlier precedence. The English were sending their forces earlier taking the sea route from Calcutta to Bombay. Inspite of the refusal, English troops forced their way through the Maratha territories. Dissensions among Poona ministers had already started by then.

Investiture of Sena Khas Khel to Fatehsingrao I.

The strategic importance of the parts of Gujarat held by Fatehsingrao, and Raghunath Rao's taking shelter in Gujarat with English made former's position very significant. Realising this importance Poona Government wanted the assistance of Fatehsingrao. The Poona Government came to an understanding with him, and recognised him as the lawful owner of the Gaekwad dominions in place of his brother Sayajirao, and bestowed upon him the title of Sena Khas Khel in 1778.[2]

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.62, 64 & 71.
   Sarkar J., Persian Records of Maratha History, New Letters from Parasnis Collections Vol.I, p.96 ~~xxxxxx~~, 2nd para of the letter.
   Selections M.S., Vol.I, p.573, letter dt.5.2.1777.
2. M.D.L. App.IV, pp.376-377.
   Wallace, pp.55-56.

From the extremely easy terms on which Fatehsingrao was recognised by the Peshwa, it became evident how greatly Gaekwad's alliance was sought by the Peshwa. A sum of only five lakhs of rupees was to be paid as Nazrana in lieu of the title of Sena Khas Khel, the smallest sum a Gaekwad ever paid for this investiture. Alongwith it a sum of rupees five and half lakhs was paid as arrears of tributes and another one lakh of rupees for the officials of the Poona durbar. Fatehsingrao again put his demand for the restoration of his share of Broach revenues, to which Peshwa agreed to negotiate with the English for its settlement. As long as the Peshwa's party feared that Fatehsingrao would join the English and till he actually did so, he was very lightly assessed. In return for Fatehsingrao's services against Raghunath Rao, his tributes and indemnity for service of troops was settled and it was decided that as long as the English were in Gujarat, no indemnity for service of troops would be demanded from him and four lakhs of rupees was fixed as his tribute. Govindrao's pretentions were finally set aside[1].

Convention of Vadgaon.

By 1778, the dissension amongst the Poona ministers became very evident. A party headed by Moroba made overtures to Raghunath Rao. Mostyn, the English agent at Poona encouraged

1. Wallace, pp.55-56.

these dissension at the court of the Peshwa and made a common cause with Moroba, to restore Raghunath Rao on the 'gaddi'. But this plot was soon discovered and Moroba was taken to task.[1] On 23rd November 1778 a force under the command of Col. Eagerton, started for Poona to conduct Raghunath Rao there[2]. When it reached Talegaon, Poona forces resisted its advance and a battle was fought in which the English were defeated. On 16th January 1779 a convention was concluded at Vadgaon[3]. The English agreed to surrender all their acquisitions of the Maratha territories made since 1772. Raghunath Rao surrendered himself unconditionally to Sindhia acknowledging Madhavrao II as the lawful heir of the Peshwa[4].

After the setback of the English forces, Hastings tried to negotiate with the Marathas on fresh terms. Accordingly Col. Goddard was entrusted for negotiations on the basis of the treaty of Purandhar with an additional article by which French should not be allowed to form any establishment in the Maratha territory[5]. If this alliance could not be made on the

1. Selections M.S. Vol.I, pp.320-326.
   S.P.D., Vol.XXXV, Nos.332, 346 & 385.
2. Wallace, pp.56 & 57.
3. Selections M.S. Vol.I, pp.359 & 386.
   Wallace, pp.56 & 57.
   I.S.A.T., Pt. I, p.87.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, pp.132 & 79.
4. Ibid. p.79.
   Walace, pp.57 & 59.
5. Selections M.S.,Vol.I, Goddard's despatch of 19th Feb. and 30th March.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, p.93.

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proposed terms, Bombay Government was authorised by the Governor General with the full powers to deal with the situation and was directed to increase its military resources.[1] They could also promote the plan of the alliance with Fatehsingrao Gaekwad. This is to be noted that the alliance with the Gaekwad was to be made on the condition that the English would not give any assistance for the reconciliation of the demestic differences in the Gaekwad family and Fatehsingrao would be considered as the only acknowledged head of the state[2].

By the terms of the convention of Vadgaon, Raghunath Rao surrendered to Sindhia, and Poona Durbar decided to send him to his jagir at Jhansi, thus finishing a long time despute. On his way to his jagir, he could manage his escape and reach Surat[3]. The return of Raghunath Rao to Surat provided the English another opportunity to open hostilities against the Poona Government with the object of retrieving the disaster of Vadgaon[4]. The Poona Government demanded the surrender of

1. Sarkar J., Persian Records of Maratha History,, News letters from Parasnis collections, Vol.I, p.96, para 4th of the letter.
2. Selections F.D. Vol.II, p.674, From the proceedings of 1779.

   B.P.D., File No.2, Vol.II, p.116.
3. H.S.B.S.R., Vol.II, letter No.62 dt. 7.6.1779, from Peshwa to Fatehsingrao for intercepting Raghunath Rao's march.

   Wallace, p.59.

   Sarkar J., Persian Records of Maratha History,Newsletters from Parasnis collections, Vol.I, News of 22nd March 1779.
4. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.88.

Raghunath Rao and surrender of Salsette as the preliminaries of the new alliance, to which the English did not yield. Thus again started a war between the English and the Peshwa, Raghunath Rao being puppet in the hands of the English.

Fatehsingrao Gaekwad had earlier entered into an alliance with the Peshwa, by which he was recognised as Sena Khas Khel in 1778. The Poona Government considered this an added advantage in their position considering that the hostilities would be renewed with the English and the country under Gaekwad would be the theatre of war. At that time Fatehsingrao would be of a great help. The English also thought it wise to detach Fatehsingrao from the Peshwa's side. And they were trying to persuade Fatehsingrao for an accommodation. Poona Government was also in know of it.[1] Fatehsingrao on the other hand knew the importance of his position and tried to take advantage of it. Knowing fully well that inspite of all the advantages he enjoyed with the Poona court, he was still considered under the Poona Government[2]. The English offered in release him from this dependence from the Poona Government, to help him to take possession of the Peshwa's territories in Gujarat and to bring

1. S.P.D., VolXXXVI, letter No.379, dt.8.9.1779.
   Shankeraji Narain informs Peshwa that English were endeavouring to win over Fatehsingrao Gaekwad.
   H.S.B.S.R.
2. /Vol.II, Letter Nos.76 & 84 & 129.

about a reconciliation with Govindrao provided he entered into an alliance with the English. Though at that moment the alliance did not materialise, but Fatehsingrao was tempted to join the English. As a result of the promise of these offers by the English, his defiant attitude towards Poona Government was obvious. Even with that attitude Fatehsingrao was in alliance with the Poona Durbar[1], simultaneously entertaining the overtures of an alliance with the English. In view of Gaekwads strong position in Gujarat and the strategic importance of the country he was holding, Peshwa was pretending confidence in him[2] knowing fully well that Fatehsingrao was

1. H.S.B.S.R. letter Nos.74,77,83&72, dated 24.7.1779. Fatehsingrao informed Peshwa that Raghunath Rao with English and in league with Nawab of Khambhat (Cambay) was trying to create disturbances, so it is better if Peshwa should also send some troops to assist Fatehsingrao to subdue Raghunath Rao

2. Ibid. Vol.II, letter No.90 dt.8.1.1780. From Peshwa Govt. to Fatehsingrao acknowledging receipt of information given by him regarding the movements of the English and Raghunath Rao. The letter ends with an assertion of confidence in the Gaekwad.

   Ibid, letter No.91, dt.19.1.1780. From Visaji Appaji to Fatehsingrao informing forces being sent for his assistance and that he should also communicate his future plans and policy adopted to meet the nuisance of the English.

   Ibid, letter No.93, dated 19.1.1780.

   Ibid, letter No.97, dt.25.1.1780. From Visaji Appaji to Fatehsingrao it appears that by this time Peshwa was trying to show his fullest confidence in Fatehsingrao and depending upon him wholly in this company where English were operating in Gujarat.

   Wallace p.60.

entertaining overtures of an alliance with the English and might change side any moment. Still just to hold him to his side the Peshwa was trying all possible measures. The Peshwa thought that it would not be difficult for them to check the English advance with the assistance of Fatehsingrao.

Treaty of Kundila.

As the negotiations of peace could not be settled between the English and the Poona Government, English opened a correspondence with Fatehsingrao in quite earnest.[1] Fatehsingrao too was willing to negotiate a treaty offensive and defensive with the English.

A treaty was signed on 26th January 1780 at Kundila, near Dabhoi.[2] The terms of the treaty were that the province north to river Mahi, including the Peshwa's share was to be given to Fatehsingrao and in return he would cede his share of the districts south of Broach city along with the pargana of Sinor to the English. The tributes due to the Peshwa were to be withheld and he would send 3000 horses to join General Gaddard's army. The treaty was defensive against all the foreign enemies and offensive against the Peshwa. The contracting parties were to hold sole authority over their own share

1. Selections F.D. Vol.II, p.674.
2. Selections, M.S. Vol.I, pp.392-396.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, pp.88, 94 & 102.
   Treaties, Vol.VIII, p.25, No.III, Part I.
   H.S.B.S.R., Vol.II, letter No.98, dated 26.1.1780.
   B.P.D. File No.11, pp.162-294.
   G.B. Vol.III, pp.95-97.

of the province, independent of each other. The treaty was signed by Goddard on behalf of English and Fatehsingrao. Though it was approved by the Governor General but was never formally ratified by him.

A question arises when friendly relations were existing between the Peshwa and Fatehsingrao, why the latter chose to sign a treaty at Kundila with the English. It may be attributed firstly to the geographical setting of the Gaekwad dominions, whose territories were easily accessible to the English troops both by sea and by land. Secondly, Fatehsingrao inspite of the cordial relations with the Peshwa's Government[1] was compelled by the pressure of events, to enter into an alliance with the English, as the eminent war was to take place in the territories of Gujarat. Thirdly Fatehsingrao's position with the Peshwa was of a dependent nature. He had to pay an annual subsidy as tribute, which he did not want to furnish. As a result of it huge arrears had accumulated[2]. Entering into this alliance with the English, Fatehsingrao would have become independent of the Peshwa. In doing so he as well as his successors would have been released of not paying any tribute to the Peshwa. This was a long aspiration of his ancesters too. English on the other hand too secured their position[3]

1. Selections, M.S., Vol.I, p.394.
2. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.76, dt.15.8.1779.
   Ibid, letter No.129, May 1782.
3. Ibid. letter No.98, dt.26.1.1780.
   Ibid. letter No.99, dt. 28.1.1780.

in Gujarat by entering into this alliance with the ruler of the place.

English and Fatehsingrao I-joint campaign in Gujarat:

A fresh campaign was started as the alliance between Poona and Government/the English could not be made. Fatehsingrao Gaekwad was won over by the English. After the peace treaty being finalised at Kundila between the English and Fatehsingrao in 1780, both planned a joint venture to capture possessions of the Peshwa in Gujarat[1]. Ahmedabad was planned to be attacked jointly first to release it from the Peshwa's agent Apajirao Ganesh. General Goddard had already captured Dabhoi on 20th Jan. 1780.[2] At Dabhoi, Fatehsingrao's forces joined the forces of Gen. Goddard. The conjoint army advanced towards Ahmedabad, which was taken by them on 15th Feb. 1780[3], and was handed over to the Gaekwad.

1. Sardesai, Vol.III, pp.88, 94 & 102.
2. Wallace, pp.60 & 61.
   Forbes, Vol.II, p.339.
3. Selections,M.S. Vol.I, pp.397, 398, & 399.
   Letter from Goddard to President and Council at Bombay regarding capture of Ahmedabad.
   S.P.D. Vol.XXXVI, letter Nos.386 &
   Sardesai, Vol.III, p.102.
   H.S.B.S.R., Letter Nos.103 & 104.
   Both from Gajrabai, the daughter of Fatehsingrao expressing delight over his success in securing Ahmedabad.
   Ibid. Letter No.106.
   From Khanderao Gaekwad of Kadi to Fatehsingrao expressing the joy over his securing Ahmedabad.
   Wallace, p.62.
   Forbes, Vol.III, p.116.

Mahadji Sindhia earlier proposed to mediate the affairs between the English and the Poona ministers. But after the escape of Raghunath Rao Sindhia consented to oppose Gen. Goddard in Gujarat. The Maratha army under Sindhia and Holkar reached the neighbourhood of Baroda and encamped near Dabhoi round about March 1780. When Fatehsingrao and Gen. Goddard came to know about the army encamping near Baroda they sent their heavy baggage and artillery for safety to Khambhat (Cambay) and they themselves started from Ahmedabad to Baroda with light equipment to face the Poona army[1].

Genl Goddard crossed the river Mahi at Vasad at the same time when Sindhia was camping there. Gen. Goddard tried twice to enter Sindhia's camp by surprise but could get partial success. The campaign ended without any decisive result. Sindhia too retreated back towards Pavagarh. The position of the English was strong in the province because of Fatehsingrao's support. The Poona Government was finding it difficult to pursue the war in the province whose chief was with the opposite party[2]. Sindhia started negotiations with Gen.Goddard who also reciprocated Sindhia's friendly proposition and declared that English too wanted permanent peace and honourable

1. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.102.
   Selections,M.S. Vol.I, p.430.
   . Selections H.S., Vol.I, p.426.
2. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.144.

settlement. It seemed Sindhia wanted to gain sometime, so that he may be able to distract Fatehsingrao. But Sindhia could not induce him to leave the English and join the Peshwa. Fatehsingrao proved himself an effective and willing ally of the English in the defence of Gujarat. Though Sindhia's measures created some misunderstanding between Fatehsingrao and the English but later those were removed[1].

Failing in his efforts to get Fatehsingrao's cooperation, Mahadji Sindhia tried his overtures on Govindrao. Since Govindrao was not reconciled with his brother, he accepted Sindhia's proposals[2]. Sindhia supplied him with money and troops and despatched him to Gujarat for taking possession of Baroda. This was a diversion which made Goddard's plans upset[3]. Fatehsingrao remained at Baroda to guard his own capital and could not send any help to the English initially. But at the

1. G.B. Vol.III, p.105.
   Ibid., p.108.
   In his note of 16th Aug. 1781, Governor General strongly recommended that the fortress of Ahmedabad should be surrendered to the entire charge and possession of Fatehsingrao. Till then the place was guarded by an English battalion as Goddard was taking precautions in regard to the rumours afloat that Fatehsingrao intended joining the ministerial party. The object was clarified when Goddard and Fatehsingrao met at the banks of the river Dhahdar. In that conference Fatehsingrao cleared his position.
2. Selections,M.S., Vol.I, p.407.
   Sardesai, Vol.III, pp.104-105.
3. Ibid, p.102.

end of the campaign Fatehsingrao was able to place a force under the command of his brother, Manajirao at the disposal of his ally.

Due to earlier setbacks, Sindhia wanted peaceful solution of the problem. The English were also eager for a lasting peace. Hence Sindhia made proposals on 16th March 1780 to the English that all the conquests made by English since 1st Jan. 1779 alongwith Ahmedabad, Gwalior and Bassein, should be returned to the Poona Government. Further more it was proposed to repudiate the pretensions of Raghunath Rao on being assured of a pension. If this was not agreed upon then a simple peace was to be made, each party retaining their acquisitions.

But the greatest obstacle to this arrangement was the necessity of restoring to the Peshwa his share of Ahmedabad which had already been made over to Fatehsingrao Gaekwad by the English as per terms of the Treaty of Kundila. Secondly the terms of proposal of peace suggested by Sindhia were also not acceptable to the English. They resolved to make strong efforts to have a hold on Bassein, the most coveted Maratha possession on the main land north of Bombay. Thus the talks failed for want of specific reply from either side.

Round about the same period a force under Col.Carnac threatened Sindhia's own dominions at Sirong in Malva which forced Sindhia to return back for the security of his own territories.

This left the Gujarat campaign in the hands of Gen.Goddard. Mahadji Sindhia, on his return, opened a front again against the English to make up his losses. But by then the English thought it prudent to conclude a peace treaty with the Marathas. Again the terms were offered. But this time these proposals were not acceptable to the Poona ministers. This paved the way for further hostilities. Emboldened by their success in Bassein campaign, the English decided again to march on to Poona to reinstate Raghunath Rao there. Goddard and Hartley occupied the Bhorghat on 9th February 1781. Maratha generals resolved to guerilla warefare, cutting the supply line of the English. Goddard found himself isolated at Khandala and when he found no hope for any success to gain access in Poona retreated to Bombay. This venture met the same fate as the preceding one of 1779. This failure of Goddard discouraged the English beyond measure[1].

Treaty of Salbai.

English came to know that a confederacy has been formed between the Peshwa, Haider Ali and Nizam. English thought it necessary to detach the Marathas from this confederacy to safeguard their position. While these plans were being made, Sindhia got defeated in a battle in Malva which gave a big blow blow to Sindhia's ambitions. This made Sindhia to agree to mediate between the English and Poona durbar. It was a

1. Sardesai, Vol.III, p.111.

favourable move for the English. Thus a treaty was concluded between the English and the Poona ministers at Salbai by the mediation of Mahadji Sindhia on 17th May 1782[1]. This was ratified by the Governor General on 6th June 1782 but signed by Poona Government much later on 24th February 1783. The portions affecting Gaekwad were communicated to Fatehsingrao in a resolution dated 27th March 1783. The great difficulty in making this treaty was that it would entail Fatehsingrao to hand over Ahmedabad. The territories of Gaekwads which were in the hands of the English were to be returned to Fatehsingrao.

As per terms of the treaty of Kundila in 1780, it was settled that Fatehsingrao, would be free from the Peshwa's authority and the territories belonging to Peshwa in Gujarat would be divided between the English and the Gaekwad. The boundaries were settled. The territories north of Mahi would go to Fatehsingrao and that of South of Tapti to the English It was also settled that the Gaekwad possessions in South of

1.H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.133.
Treaties, Vol.VI, Part I, No.IX, p.40.
Selections,M.S., Vol.I, p.478.
B.P.D. File No.II, pp.295 & 356.
Sardesai, Vol.III, p.111.
G.B. Vol.III, pp.122-125.
Imp.Gaz. p.19.

Tapti would also be replaced by an equivalent share from the Peshwa's territories situated in the north of Mahi. With reference to this adjustment, Ahmedabad was to be secured to the Gaekwad in lieu of their territories south of Tapti ceded to the English.

By the subsequent treaty of Salbai, in 1782, English were to return back all the places belonging to Peshwa, which had been shared by the English and the Gaekwad. The main problem arose in the execution of this treaty regarding returning of Ahmedabad, which Fatehsingrao was not ready to leave[1]. However by July 1783, Gaekwad returned back Ahmedabad[2] to the Peshwa and in exchange English returned to Gaekwad Sinor and and Dabhoi. The district of Broach, which was earlier given to the English, Gaekwad claimed that it should be returned back to him. In addition to it, Koral, Chikli, Variav and Batta should also be returned back to him[3]. But the English did not yield to this claim and Gaekwad could not get back those territories.

Fatehsingrao gained practically nothing by the treaty of Salbai. Rather the two wars between the Peshwa and the English which took place on the territory of Gaekwad made the affairs

1. G.B. Vol.III, pp.137 & 139.
2. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.134.
3. B.P.D. File No.II, pp.375-403.

of Gujarat more disturbed. It left Gaekwad into his old position. Although Gaekwad was released from the authority of Peshwa yet he had to submit to the terms of treaty. After much perturbations and conciliations the affairs of Gujarat settled down once again into the former position. The treaty of Salbai only helped in establishing tranquility in the province thus enabling Fatehsingrao to establish peace in his territory[1]. He also got time to enforce administrative reforms and could settle the revenues.[2]

Fatehsingrao in later years: Consolidation of Gujarat affairs.

It has been described earlier that in accordance to the article V & VI of the treaty of 1775, signed between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao mediated by the English, Fatehsingrao ceded to the English his share of revenues of Broach together with parganas of Chikli, Variav and Koral. The settlement regarding Broach was confirmed by successive treaty of Purandhar in1776 between English and the Poona Government. Regarding parganas of Chikli Variav and Koral it was left to the decided at a later date. After the settlement of the treaty of Kundila in 1780, the English got further territorial and financial advantages from Fatehsingrao. Special reference was made regarding Dabhoi and Sinor which were exchanged by Fatehsingrao

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.II, letter No.144.
2. Ibid. Letter Nos.139, 140, 142, 145, 147 & 148.

in lieu of the Peshwa territories north of Mahi. Peshwa's contention was that Fatehsingrao had no independent right to cede any part of the territory to any party without the former's consent. Hence he demanded from the English the restoration of the territories ceded by Fatehsingrao together with restoration of Dabhoi and Sinor to the respective authorities. Earlier too, before the treaty of Kundila was signed, Fatehsingrao, ~~xxxx~~ had demanded from the English the restoration of the districts on the condition that the terms on which these were granted to English by the earlier treaty of 1775 were not fulfilled.

All the territories which the English secured by these successive treaties in these years, were of great importance to them. They were not inclined to relinguish them at any cost. They justified their possession by giving arguments that Fatehsingrao had equal independent right to grant his territories. The English argued that if the Gaekwads had no independent rights over their territories and if the whole of the Gaekwad possessions were at the will of Peshwa and needed his approval, then there was no need for Peshwa Balaji Bajirao to have entered into a treaty with Damajirao II as early as 1752. According to this treaty the Gaekwad possessions in Gujarat were divided equally half and half between the Peshwa and the Gaekwad. Still further the English gave another argument that the Peshwa did not make any objection when an alliance was made

between English and Fatehsingrao in 1773.

On the contrary Peshwa was asserting that earlier Gaekwads, Damajirao II and Sayajirao I had declared themselves subordinates to Poona Court. Fatehsingrao I had himself accepted the overlordship of Peshwa in 1778 when he was granted the title of Sena Khas Khel.

Thus after the ratification of the treaty of Kundila Fatehsingrao devoted his earlier period of his independent rule to restore back the territories ceded to the English. He tried to consolidate his administration and restore the revenues of the territories in a proper form. After the treaty of Salbai in 1782 between English and the Poona Government in which Fatehsingrao was a party, Fatehsingrao returned back to his original old position. He had restored all his territories which he possessed before the commencement of the conflict between the English, Peshwa and the Gaekwads. There was only one exceptions to this settlement and that was Broach. It was given to Sindhia by the English as a goodwill and Fatehsingrao was to pay the tribute to the Poona Government as before, though the arrears were condoned.

During the last part of his rule he was undisturbed and managed his territories peacefully till his death in 1789 . He spent lot of his time in dealing with Nawab of Surat and Khambhat (Cambay). He had already made good relations with

English who extended their full cooperation to him in dealing with his affairs of Surat and Khambhat (Cambay) with their Nawabs. The influence of the English on Fatehsingrao had been quite tremendous. This is evident from one of the letters, at one time Peshwa had to write to English in July 1785 in which former had requested the latter to mediate in settling a few pending affairs with Gaekwads[1].

The rule of Fatehsingrao after the treaty of Salbai till his death in Dec. 1789 had been without any major conflict. It was peaceful. Fatehsingrao as a man was always considered as wise and of moderate views. Circumstances did not allow him to extend the possessions of his family further, but he consolidated whatever he had already acquired.

Administrative and political abilities of Fatehsingrao:

Fatehsingrao is considered to be as one of the very shrewd and clever ruler of his time. From the political activities of Fatehsingrao discussed above, there is no doubt about his achievements. His prudence in getting the succession in his own name during the dispute is quite evident. Just after the death of his father, he being younger to Sayajirao had no chance of inheritence to the 'gaddi'. But he had an ambitious nature. He thought of siding his elder brother Sayajirao who

1.G.B., Vol.III, p.156.

was considered to be a man of a weak nature. Fatehsingrao foresighted advantage in acting as a regent to look after the administration of the state. He could prove his administrative abilities in his time of regency. Virtually he had the control of the whole state in the name of his brother.

As an administrator Fatehsingrao managed the state very well concurrently consolidating his powers. He apprehended that Govindrao may create problems in the state any time. So he wanted to remain in his territory for the most of the period to protect against any subversive activity of Govindrao. Since Govindrao had a backing of the Maratha chiefs like Mahadji Sindhia, Malharrao Holkar and Raghunath Rao, Fatehsingrao had to be cautious in his moves. While he was at Poona to secure recognition of succession for his brother Sayajirao, he diplomatically took measure to strengthen himself against any possible onslaught of other interested parties in Gujarat. At this juncture Fatehsingrao's political shrewdness is worth commenting. He could convince the Poona court to withdraw his military contingent from Poona on a plea that it was needed in Gujarat for the protection of Gaekwad territories against any subversive designs of Govindrao. In lieu of that he agreed to pay an annual subsidy every year in cash and thus could avoid sending the army at Poona.

Fatehsingrao had foresightedness in anticipating the events to come. Due to the conflict between Raghunath Rao and

Peshwa for power: there was a shifting politics at Poona court. Fatehsingrao anticipated that Govindrao may assume succession in place of his brother any time due to these disturbances of the Poona court. This might change his fortune any moment. To safeguard his position he diplomatically entered into an alliance with the English.

The later developments in the succession conflicts of Gaekwad show the abilities of Fatehsingrao as a capable statesman. When English were trying to help Raghunath Rao in securing the Peshwaship at Poona, Fatehsingrao very well knew the staunch leaning of Govindrao towards Raghunath Rao. With his clever statesmanship Fatehsingrao kept the English as well as Raghunath Rao in an ambiguous position by not indicating his alliance to any of them. Thus Fatehsingrao avoided conflict from the ministerialists who were supporting him. As he was not certain which party viz. Raghunath Rao or the ministerialists was going to succeed in getting power at Poona, it was a political wise step of Fatehsingrao not to have antagonised any of the parties.

Fatehsingrao's political ability became further evident when he changed his alliance to the English, Govindrao and Raghunath Rao during the reverses the ministerialists suffered from the former's attacks. Earlier he was reluctant to have an alliance with Raghunath Rao and his party on easy terms. But

at this juncture he agreed to make an alliance with English on terms which were a little more favourable to English. This alliance was done in the interest to protect his territories in Gujarat.

In 1778 Poona ministers allured him with a title of Sena Khas Khel and made him successor to Sayajirao. This time the change of his alliance was to meet his own personal interests. Fatehsingrao had another change in his alliance and sided the English in 1780 in his interest of territorial gains and in obtaining independence from Peshwa's interferences. In this alliance even though he had to return to Peshwa all the territories which he had gained through the alliance with the English, he maintained good relations with English as well as with Peshwa.

Duplicity in his behaviour by changing sides very frequently is evident from the events occuring in those times. He may be blamed for inconsistency in his decisions in making alliances. But viewing from the angle of the changing events, it might have been logical for him todo so for his territorial interests. He cannot be outright condemned for all these frequent changes in his alliances. Had he remained faithful to only one party from the beginning to the end of the dispute, his fate would have been similar to Govindrao who had religiously sided Raghunath Rao. Looking to the final outcome of the

dispute, Govindrao could achieve nothing. On the other hand Fatehsingrao by his shrewd strategy could establish an independent rule. It has been reported by Forbes[1] that Fatehsingrao's rule had been quite oppressive. These views of the English writer cannot be shared if one examines critically the political situation of that period. There was a constant disturbed state of affairs in Fatehsingrao's dominion due to Govindrao claiming the patrimony of the state. Besides, a second factor which created troubles in Fatehsingrao's state was the internal conflict between Raghunath Rao and Peshwa forcing the later to take shelter in Gujarat. Intermittent skirmishes took place in the land neighbouring Fatehsingrao territories. The worst sufferers of all these wars were the local inhabitants of the neighbouring areas. Forbe's opinion about Fatehsingrao's rule might have been based on interrogations and observations made from the local inhabitants whose verdict can be ignored in the light of the disturbed conditions in the area.

Reports of good administration of Fatehsingrao are also available. Much later after the period of Fatehsingrao's rule, the financial position of Anandrao detoriated. In 1803 it has been reported that the state expenditure of Anandrao exceeded

1. Forbes, Vol.III, p.213.
"The migration from the Brodera purgunna, occassioned by Futty Sihng's oppressive Government, added so much to the prosperity of the Dhubhoy district.....".

Ibid; p.277.
"It was dreadful to think that the inhabitants of this earthly paradise groaned under the most oppressive disposition. Compared with the Government of the Brodera chieftain, a Mogul prince appears a noble character.

Fatty Sihng completely reversed this benevolent portrait of the ancient hindu Rajas".

the revenue returns. When an scrutiny was made by the English, they have reported that during Fatehsingrao's rule the financial position of the state was very sound. The states expenditure at that time was within the return of the revenues thus indicating an efficient administration of Fatehsingrao.

In another report Forbes[1] has criticised the personal behaviour of Fatehsingrao. He has been reported as "sordid, avarice, ambitions and discourteous" in comparision to Mughal rulers. This seems to be a very harsh remarks against his

1. Forbes, Vol.III, pp.278-279.
"....requesting the honour of a visit at the Durbar.We accepted his invitation the same evening and were amused as usual with dancing girls, music, betal and Sherbat, and received the customary presents, but all in a very unprincely style compaired with the Persian and Mughal entertainments at Cambay. Generally the Hindu princes are mean and sordid .....(in comparision with a Mughal prince) ..... avarice and ambition unite in both, but the courteous behaviour and dignified politeness of the Mughals are more engaging than the unpolished manners, united with the disagreeable pride of the Maratha Sardars. Futty Sihng was a remarkable instance of the blended characteristics of pride, avarice and a sordid disposition. As a prince he had many names and titles; the principal were Futty Sihng Row Guicawar, Shamsheer Bahadur. As head of the Guicawar family ..... the last appellation alludes to the powers of a military chieftain. Futty or Futteh Sihng, implies the 'Horn of Victory. The horn has always been a figurative expression in Asia for power and dignity .... How far this visible horn might have added to a princely appearance of Futty Sihng I cannot determine, without it, he certainly had no dignity, being short of stature of a dark complexion and mean appearance. He was then 40 years of age, had been married to several wives but had only one child....."

personal qualities. Available reports indicate that Fatehsingrao was a wise peaceloving person of moderate views and was very courteous in his behaviour. This is evident from one of the reports furnished by the Malet[1] who came in contact with Fatehsingrao in 1785. He had a great appreciation for Fatehsingrao and has reported that Fatehsingrao had shown great courtesy to him during his visit and had praised his behaviour. Forbes contention regarding Fatehsingrao's behaviour may be attributed to Fatehsingrao's changing policies in alliances. Actually the circumstances forces Fatehsingrao to change sides in the interest of the state. During his alliance with the other party the English might not have appreciated his change. Forbes at that time might have made an adverse opinion regarding Fatehsingrao. Pride in any ruler is natural especially if one has power. Fatehsingrao's pride was natural as he had acquired sufficient power during his regime.

1. Selections, M.S., Vol.I, p.492.
C.W.Malet, who was a chief of the English factory at Cambay and later became the Resident in the Poona court, has reported in his diary, that he had received a very cordial message from Fatehsingrao on his arrival at Baroda and on 23rd March 1785. Fatehsingrao and his brother Manaji came to meet him.Gaekwad showed a great respect and sincerity towards the English company and particularly insisted on his personal regards for the Governor. Contents of the letter written by Malet to Governor and company sent on 26.3.1785.

CHAPTER VIII : CONCLUSION

The Gaekwad rule in Gujarat from its formative years starting from Pilajirao to the last powerful ruler Fatehsingrao I, a period extending from 1720-1789 has been studied. This period is of significance as in the earlier phase the Gaekwads had to do lot of spade work and create a ground in order to establish themselves in Gujarat. Starting as mere subordinates to Dabhades, they had to prove their merits and capabilities to become independent rulers of Gujarat state at a later date. They had to overcome many odds created by the Mughal rulers in the initial phases in order to achieve the goal. The internal family quarrel amongst the Gaekwads in the later phase and the constant interference of the Peshwas to exercise their superiority made their task difficult. Another important party which emerged during that period was the English who were the major claimants in the territorial acquisitions and economic gains in Gujarat. This party in later years, as history reveals proved to be the predominant power who not only ruled Gujarat but the whole country at large. The English made frequent alliances with Peshwa and Gaekwads suiting their interest.With all these problems during that period the early Gaekwads successfully came out of the mess. Fatehsingrao could finally establish himself as a powerful ruler in Gujarat maintaining simultaneously good relation with the Peshwa as well as with the English.

Geographical situation of Gujarat has been of significance The strategic situation of its sea ports viz. Surat and Khambhat

(Cambay) made these area quite vulnerable. Even in Mughal times these places were kept under direct supervision of the trusted Mughal lieutenants. Gujarat was considered as a peaceful prosperous state during the Mughal rule. During the rule of later Mughals, Aurangzeb specially, developed a considerable distrust in his officers. He had also an intolerant policy towards the hindus. He, in a grim determination to reduce the Maratha power and to subdue the Deccan states created lot of bloodshed in the country and destroyed the peaceful life of the people. Inspite of all these efforts he failed miserably to achieve his purpose. His officers were unable to check the Maratha activities. They were at times sternly warned by the Emperor for not controlling the Marathas. The Rajpût chiefs from the adjourning parts of Gujarat along with local inhabitants, Kolis and Bhils joined hands with the Maratha chiefs to fight against the Mughal rule in a hope to establish themselves independently. The Maratha rulers were lured to include Gujarat into their fold because of its strategic importance. They tried to exercise considerable influence in the state. By the time Shâhu acceeded the Satara throne, imposition of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi had become a regular practice.

During the early part of the eighteenth century the Mughal power disintegrated considerably. The major conflicting parties who were trying to establish themselves in Gujarat were

the Senapati, his officers and the Peshwa. They wanted to have rights in the collection of Chauth in Gujarat. Both Senapati and Peshwa had personal conflicts in which each of them wanted to assert their importance although both were the officers appointed by the Chatrapati of Satara.

The Marathas started their incursions for the collection of revenues in Surat as early as 1664 and in Kathiawad from 1711 onwards. 'Mulukgiri' expedition became an annual feature. Khanderao Dabhade had established his authority to collect the tributes in Gujarat and Kathiawad. He was granted this authority by Chatrapati Shahu. Khanderao Dabhade had authorised Damajirao Gaekwad I, one of his trusted officer to collect the tributes from Gujarat on his behalf. Thus the Gaekwads came in the picture in the Gujarat history.

Brief review of the events leading to the establishment of the Gaekwad rule in Gujarat.

The Gaekwads came originally from a village named Davdi near Poona. One of their ancestor was a patil of a fort in Bhor. The Gaekwads in the early part of the eighteenth century lived under the banner of Khanderao Dabhade as his subordinates. The Marathas in those days were making incursions to collect tributes from Gujarat. Kadam Bande and Khanderao Dabhade, the two chiefs of Chatrapati Shahu carried out these incursions separately. Damajirao I and later Pilajirao assisted Khanderao Dabhade in these activities. Khanderao Dabhade assigned Pilajirao

to carry out the incursions in Gujarat from Songadh where he made a fort which later became his headquarter. The activities of Pilajirao were independent from those of Kadam Bande who was carrying out the raids from Navapur.

The Mughals appointed Viceroys in Gujarat in quick succession to suppress the activities of this rising power of the Marathas. A number of skirmishes took place at intervals between the Viceroys and Senapati Dabhade in which the Mughals usually had to retreat. One of the viceroy, Sayyad Hussain Ali tried to settle the dispute over the collection of tribute in Gujarat by negotiations rather than by force. Terms for the collection of tributes were settled with the Marathas. It was promised by Sayyad Hussain Ali that he would get the terms approved by the Mughal Emperor at Delhi. Accordingly Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dabhade proceeded to Delhi to get the approval from the Mughal Emperor, which was partially granted by Mohammad Shah.

The grant of rights to collect tributes from Gujarat by the Mughals indicated the decline of Mughal hold from the province and a beginning of the rise of Maratha power in Gujarat. During the absence of Khanderao Dabhade for about two years when he was at Delhi, Damajirao I made successful incursions alone in Gujarat and collected the revenues annually. This authority to Damajirao to levy tributes in Gujarat was received from Chatrapati Shahu.

Decline in the Mughal power at Delhi prompted some of the ambitious Mughal viceroys to raise their head against the central rule. Nizam in an attempt to establish himself as independent ruler came in conflict with Sayyad Hussain Ali. Damajirao I got an opportunity to show his merit. He and Khanderao Dabhade supported Sayyad Hussain Ali in the battle which was fought at Balapur in Berar. Although Sayyads lost the battle but Damajirao fought bravely. This earned him the title of 'Shamsher Bahadur' from Chatrapati Shahu and Damajirao I was elevated to 'second in command' in Dabhade's army. Damajirao I tried to strengthen the position of Gaekwads in Gujarat. But his death in 1721 left his ambition half way.

After the death of Damajirao I his worthy nephew Pilajirao took the lead in putting Gaekwads on a more firmer footing in Gujarat. Starting his career as a messenger under Khanderao Dabhade he proved his merit by carrying out the orders of Dabhade creditably well. He was also promoted gradually to the same position as his uncle, Damajirao I, the second in command in Dabhade's army. His notable successes included incursions into Surat Attavisi collecting handsome tributes. He created good relations with the local tribes of Kolis and Bhils and small chiefs around Baroda and its neighbouring areas. These local chiefs had the ambitions to become independent from the Mughal rule. They were frustrated with the Mughal administration. Pilajirao had a foresight into all these problems and

while representing Senapati Dabhade he with the backing and good will of the local people could consolidate his position in Gujarat. He may thus be considered as founder of the Gaekwad rule in Gujarat.

During Shivaji's time the post of Senapati and that of Peshwa in his court of ministers had equal significance. But Peshwa after the accession of Shahu gradually took all powers and post of Senapati was left in the background. This was the origin of the discontent to Dabhades. Khanderao Dabhade as well as Pilajirao were not able to reconcile the rising powers of the Peshwa.

Pilajirao wanted to establish an effective rule in Gujarat. Frequent changes in the appointment of viceroys in Gujarat by the Mughal Emperors helped Pilajirao to strengthen his position. In place of Nizam, a new viceroy, Sarbuland Khan was appointed. Thus there was a conflict between the previous viceroy Nizam and the new viceroy for getting the hold over the province. Pilajirao and Kadam Bande took advantage of this situation. By helping Hamid Khan, the deputy of Nizam to oust the deputy of the new viceroy he could secure the rights to collect the Chauth of Gujarat. The credit for it goes to Pilajirao for his diplomatic association with Hamid Khan. With the grant of Chauth to Pilajirao and Kadam Bande it became evident that the Mughal authority was further declining in Gujarat and the

Marathas were gradually coming up as rising power in the province. Besides the collection of Chauth from the various districts of Gujarat, assigned to them separately by Hamid Khan, both Pilajirao Gaekwad and Kadam Bande had started carrying out extraction of extra money by way of 'Khandani' in those districts. This was causing an unrest in the area. The viceroy was not able to check these activities of the Maratha chiefs. He wanted a lasting solution of the problem and so tried to negotiate with Pilajirao for a settlement regarding the collection of tributes from Gujarat.

Peshwa Bajirao came to know of these developments regarding grant of Chauth to Pilajirao and Kadam Bande by the Mughal viceroy. He wanted to collect the tributes himself thus trying to exert his hold in Gujarat affairs. He argued that Senapati Khanderao Dabhade had been authorised by Chatrapati Shahu to collect the tributes of Gujarat. Pilajirao was acting on behalf of Dabhade and hence the tribute should go to Chatrapati through Peshwa. On this issue a conflict took place between Pilajirao and Kadam Bande on one hand and Peshwa's agent Udaji Pawar sided by the new viceroy Sarbuland Khan on the other hand. This was the beginning of the open conflict between Peshwa and Gaekwad. Peshwa took an advantage of aligning with the ruling viceroy Sarbuland Khan who had already come in conflict with Pilajirao due to his activities in Gujarat.

Pilajirao successfully laid a siege at Dabhoi and a battle took place near Watrak. Finally Udaji Pawar had to leave, strengthening further the hold of Pilajirao occupying Baroda and Dabhoi along with the right to collect the Chauth and the Sardeshmukhi of those places. Skirmishes continued with Peshwa even after that. Finally it resulted in a civil war fought at Dabhoi in 1731 between Senapati Trambakrao Dabhade and other Maratha confederates to suppress the interference of the Peshwa.

The Mughal Emperor was also unhappy over the grant of tributes to Pilajirao. Abhai Singh was appointed the next Viceroy in place of Sarbuland Khan to meet the situation. Peshwa Bajirao, already in conflict with Pilajirao, promised to help Abhai Singh to protect the territories from the depredations by other Maratha chiefs. Chatrapati Shahu wanted to settle the differences of the Peshwa and the Gaekwad but his powers vested in Peshwa could not bring about the desired effect. Differences between Pilajirao with Peshwa continued as before.

Pilajirao's strength increased further in 1731 when Chatrapati Shahu appointed Yaswantrao Dabhade as Senapati. He being minor, Pilajirao was nominated his "Mutaliq" along with an additional honour of a title of Sena Khas Khel. This became a distinctive title in the family of Gaekwads and each successive Gaekwad ruler got this investiture from Poona durbar

while ascending the throne. Pilajirao, then with additional resources of Senapati at his disposal, consolidated his position still further. He was holding Baroda, Songadh and Dabhoi and had full cooperation of local populace of Kolis and Bhil.Abhai Singh could not control the rising power of Pilajirao and hence with a pretence to enter into a final settlement, treacherously got Pilajirao stabbed in this meeting thus bringing an end to the great founder of Gaekwad cause in Gujarat.

It may be observed that Peshwa as well as the Mughals were feeling embarrased by the steep ascendency of Pilajirao. They could not check his command in the province. Even after getting him killed treacherously, they could not bring the desired effect of diminishing Gaekwad influence. On the contrary Damajirao II came out with still more influence in Gujarat. The set back caused by assassination of Pilajirao in 1732 was temporary. His son Damajirao II took the plunge in the battle to establish the Gaekwad rule in Gujarat. Abhai Singh induced Umabai Dabhade to come to a settlement regarding collection of tributes in Gujarat. But the collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi in the province remained with the Gaekwad as before. Damajirao with the help of an old ally of Pilajirao, the Desai of Padra and Mahadji could recapture the territories from the Mughal's possession, which had been captured during the turmoil that followed after Pilajirao's death. Thus in 1734, Damajirao could get back Baroda which remained under the rule of Gaekwad family till the state merged with Indian Republic. Damajirao

was appointed Umabai Dabhade's agent in Gujarat to succeed Pilajirao and was authorised to collect the tributes from the province.

Damajirao during his tenure expanded the Gaekwad dominions considerably. He alongwith his deputy Rangoji occupied Viramgam, a very important acquisition, thus taking a command to a road that led entry to peninsula of Kathiawad. Damajirao settled the Chauth of Ahmedabad with Ratan Singh Bhandari. He consolidated the collection of revenues in most of the parts in Gujarat. In 1735 he could settle with the Nawab of Surat the collection of revenues in Surat Attavisi on a friendly terms and later settled terms with Nizam in 1741, securing shares in the revenues from Broach, Jambusar, Dahejbara and Koral districts. He was the man who exercised the effective control over the land. He gradually increased his area of jurisdiction in the collection of tributes and settled amicably these matters with Momin Khan I too. In order to expel the marwaris, and Ratan Singh Bhandari Momin Khan I offered Damajirao II additional cession of half the revenue of Gujarat excepting the city, pargana and haveli of Ahmedabad. In the meantime Ratan Singh Bhandari came to know of this alliance and offered Damajirao better concessions than what were offered by Momin Khan. In negotiating this way Damajirao could again bargain with Momin Khan and could secure additional advantages in the grant of revenues from the city of Ahmedabad. Later he successfully secured a joint control of the city of Ahmedabad. Thus with all these efforts Damajirao II

by 1743 could secure a peaceful right to collect the revenues from major places in Gujarat. Thus Damajirao could hold the rule in the midst of great scramble for power. He exapnded the Maratha dominions considerably and brought fortunes of the Gaekwad family to a very high pitch.

After the death of Chatrapati Shahu in 1749 the conflict which had started during Pilajirao's time between Damajirao and Peshwa became still deep. They had a number of skirmishes and finally in 1751, Peshwa's forces overpowered Damajirao and Dabhade. Damajirao asked for terms of settlement with Peshwa who was all the time demanding half the share in Gujarat territories. Damajirao avoided definite settlement, on a plea that he was a subordinate to Dabhade and had no powers to decide regarding cession of the territories. During these talks Peshwa kept Damajirao and his sons under strong guard and confinement. In the meantime Peshwa sent Raghunath Rao to occupy forcibly possessions of all the settlements of Damajirao in Gujarat. Raghunath Rao could not manage affairs alone in Gujarat and thus Damajirao's assistance was again needed in Gujarat. In this way Damajirao was released and in 1752 a formal treaty between Peshwa and Gaekwads was signed by which whatever Damajirao II and Dabhade had acquired by their joint efforts had to be divided between Peshwa and Gaekwad. Thus inspite of rising power of Damajirao II, subordination of Gaekwads to Peshwas could not be ruled out. Although

a partition treaty was signed and outwardly Gaekwad reconciled with Peshwa but from the inner heart Damajirao II could not enter into confederacy with the Peshwas. In accordance to this treaty Damajirao II became the sole Maratha representative in Gujarat, and the claims of Dabhade over Gujarat were totally abandoned. Damajirao II had to pay huge arrears of the tributes which were due since the times of Pilajirao; had to cede half of his dominions to Peshwa and further had to yield similar half in his all future conquests.

This was a political gain of the Peshwa over the Gaekwad. After partition treaty they jointly captured Ahmedabad and had to share a joint rule. Earlier Damajirao had shared the rule at Ahmedabad with the Mughal viceroy, this time it was with Peshwa, a reversal of the same old position.

Damajirao showed obedience to Peshwa, complying to all the orders during Peshwa's expeditions. But he was never reconciled in all these warfares as he was not the main person to be benefitted. Inspite of not being the sole beneficiary in the territorial gains, still Damajirao showed his valour in future conquests to suppress the enemies of the Marathas. While Damajirao was busy in these military activities his sons Fatehsingrao and Govindrao collected the revenues. Damajirao II showed his merit in the war with Nizam and helped Raghunath Rao in his success. He was honoured by a title of Sena Khas Khel

in 1763 in recognition of his victory over Nizam,

After the death of Damajirao II in the year 1768, a dispute arose regarding the succession of 'gaddi' in the Gaekwads family. Sayajirao claimed for succession on the ground that he was the eldest son of Damajirao II while Govindrao claimed that he was the son of the seniormost wife of Damajirao. Sayajirao was supported by Fatehsingrao. He was the younger brother of Sayajirao and was most capable. Being younger to his brother he had no claims of his own but his support to Sayajirao was with one intention and that was, his elder brother being a man of weak nature, virtually he would be the ruler. Govindrao was supported by his uncle Khanderao whose backing was because of Peshwa's support to Govindrao.

The succession dispute between the two brothers was another set back in the Gaekwad history. It created a crack in their own power and gave an opportunity to the foreign powers to interfere for their economic and territorial gains. Inspite of all this Fatehsingrao came out successfully from all that mess. English territories were in the neighbourhood of Gaekwad dominions. So they could not afford a fight with their neighbour. Considering Fatehsingrao more powerful they did not want to enter into any conflict with him.

After the partition treaty Peshwa secured the right for approval of the appointment of successor to Baroda 'gaddi'.

Govindrao took the advantage of being present at Poona and so secured the right of succession for himself. Raghunath Rao sided Govindrao, as he was not sure of his control over Sayajirao vis-a-vis Fatehsingrao who seemed to be more powerful and shrewd. It is evident from the course of subsequent events that Fatehsingrao acting as regent to Sayajirao took practically all the decisions in the policy matters in the name of his brother who actually was the ruler but his name remained in the background. Peshwa Madhavrao I knowingly passed the succession right of the throne and title of Sena Khas Khel in favour of Govindrao. Civil administration of the state, on the other hand was given to Sayajirao and Fatehsingrao. This decision was taken to weaken the strength of the Gaekwads. But charge of civil administration of the state gave ample scope to Fatehsingrao to strengthen his position at home.

In 1770 Fatehsingrao made a bid to influence the Poona court for succession in favour of his brother Sayajirao. On the intervention of Nana Phadnavis and Ram Shastri the two influential ministers of the Poona court, Sayajirao obtained the sanction of a lawful successor to Baroda 'gaddi' with the title of Sena Khas Khel. Fatehsingrao was made the regent of the state.

In 1773 Raghunath Rao got the Peshwaship after the death of Madhavrao and the murder of Narain Rao , as he was the only

person in the direct lineage. He changed the order in favour of Govindrao, who was given the right of 'gaddi' again. On getting the reins Govindrao started to acquire Gaekwads possession by force with the support of Raghunath Rao. Govindrao wanted to have a hold over Songadh. But his move was foiled by Fatehsingrao, in consequence he moved towards Baroda and surreunded it. By 1774 Govindrao had expanded his jurisdiction in Padra and contiguous parganas of Baroda. Fatehsingrao was having his hold only in Baroda, Patan and some districts of Kathiawad.

Just in 1774, the events again turned in favour of Fatehsingrao. Madhavrao II was born in 1774 and the Poona ministers declared their loyalty to the young Peshwa who was ceremoniously installed. Sayajirao was siding the ministerialist group and so could once again succeed to get the succession rights of gaddi for himself.

It would be seen that the period of ten years from the death of Damajirao II in 1768 till Fatehsingrao became the legal heir of the 'gaddi' in 1778, had been a period of great scramble for power in the Gaekwad history. It was definite that Peshwas were asserting their superiority by passing orders of succession. But there in Poona Court too the Peshwa and his uncle Raghunath Rao were having an internal conflict amongst themselves for the Peshwaship. When Raghunath Rao

became Peshwa he sided Govindrao and on the contrary when the ministerialist group were in power they passed order in favour of Sayajirao. Due to these confusions in the succession orders, the Gaekwads could not consolidate their power. On the contrary their energies were diverted in fighting among themselves in a bid to hold their own territories and not allowing it to go into the hands of the other brother. The English took advantage of this disarray and started siding to Govindrao or Fatehsingrao as it suited to their interests. Whatever might have been the consequences of this conflict in these ten years, the English gained a lot of territories in Gujarat and were the main beneficiary.

The foreign powers took the advantage of the conflict between the two brothers, Govindrao and Sayajirao. After Madhavrao II became the Peshwa, Raghunath Rao fled from Poona and took shelter with Govindrao. Govindrao had by that time gained considerable advantage over Fatehsingrao. In a bid to get the hold of the administration of Baroda, Govindrao asked the help of the English. Raghunath Rao tried to secure it for Govindrao and in turn offered to cede to the English the revenues of Broach. Till then Broach revenues belonged to Gaekwads but Raghunath Rao promised it to English on behalf of Govindrao. These promises were made to English on two assumptions. Firstly if Raghunath Rao became Peshwa he could give the rights at that time and in case Govindrao gets the

occupation of Baroda with the help of the English, then also Broach revenues could be ceded to English.

The English tried to bargain with Raghunath Rao for their support. But the Poona court who was supporting Fatehsingrao, in the meantime sent an army to help Fatehsingrao in claiming back all the Gaekwad possessions from River Mahi to Songadh. Govindrao and Raghunath Rao were badly defeated and both fled towards Khambhat (Cambay). This victory of Fatehsingrao over Govindrao made the English also to change their attitude.They never wanted to risk their interests by displeasing Fatehsingrao. On the other hand English also thought that since Govindrao is attached to Raghunath Rao, he may prove to be a better neighbour and would not harm English settlements which were in neighbourhood of Baroda. Since Fatehsingrao was having hold of Baroda with a strong support from ministerial group, it was not in the interest of the English to leave Fatehsingrao ~~too~~ neglected as such.

English tackled Fatehsingrao diplomatically convincing him that Raghunath Rao may become Peshwa any time and siding the ministerial group at that time may prove disadvantageous to him and tried to mediate in settling the affairs. The English interest lay only in collection of revenues from Broach and other parganas irrespective whether Govindrao or Fatehsingrao secured possession of Baroda. Fatehsingrao seemed to be indifferent about the mediation at that time.

In the meantime ministerialists and Fatehsingrao had a great set back. They were defeated in 1775 by the joint forces of the English, Raghunathrao and Govindrao in the battle of Arras. Govindrao and the English wanted to take advantage of this setback and so were eager to reduce Baroda as early as possible. Since ministerialist were losing ground Fatehsingrao thought it prudent to come to terms with the English and Govindrao for which he was not very keen earlier.

The diplomacy of Fatehsingrao in settling terms with the English and Raghunath Rao indicates that Fatehsingrao had one goal in mind. His association with Poona ministers was only a stepping stone to the coveted sovereignty in Gujarat. In 1775 a treaty between Raghunath Rao and Fatehsingrao was made. The English mediated in the treaty. Good offices of Col.Keating on behalf of the English could bring about a settlement between the two. By this treaty English gained a few more districts, viz. Chikli, Variav and Koral in addition of the possession of Broach. Govindrao was to get one third of Gaekwad dominions. Due to the passing of the Regulating Act of Parliament in 1774, concurrence to all such effects were to be taken by the English from the Governor General at Calcutta. The Governor General Warren Hastings did not approve of this treaty although English gains were considerable. Inspite of treaty being annuled English did not relinquish the charge of those place, which were ceded to them.

Warren Hastings never wanted at that time to come in conflict with Poona Government so he interfered in the matter and advised the English Governor at Bombay to come to a settlement with Poona court. Subsequently a treaty of Purandhar was signed between English and Poona Government in 1776 which brought peace in the area. But as Fatehsingrao's objectives were not honoured, after the treaty was signed Fatehsingrao claimed that Poona court has no right to cede Broach district and territories which were under him. He wanted the district back from English. On the other hand the English contended that these dominions were received by them for bringing about the mediation. Finally Gaekwads could not recover these districts.

Poona Government, in order to subdue the claims of Raghunath Rao who had the English support wanted an assistance of Fatehsingrao. In recognition to this support, Fatehsingrao got the title of Sena Khas Khel in 1778 and Poona Government recognised Fatehsingrao the lawful owner of Gaekwad dominions in Gujarat. On getting the official succession again a demand was made by Fatehsingrao for restoration of Broach revenues ceded to English by the Peshwa.

Bombay Government all the time were pleading to Governor General for siding Raghunath Rao in their interest of territorial gains and secretly were trying to put Raghunath Rao as Peshwa in the Poona court. Hastings realised the advantages

of it and tried to help him to gain powers. Poona ministers were having dissensions among themselves but still they resisted the English in installing Raghunath Rao at Poona. At Vadgaon the English had to surrender and came to a compromise to return back all the Maratha territories acquired by them since 1772. Later Col.Goddard was authorised to settle terms and made alliance with Fatehsingrao who was consolidating his powers slowly. The English were trying to persuade Fatehsingrao to break his alliance with the Poona court. They promised him to secure a full independence from Peshwa provided Fatehsingrao entered into an alliance with English. Peshwa was apprehensive of Fatehsingrao changing any moment to English side. English settled with Fatehsingrao by signing the treaty of Kundila in 1780. By this treaty, English had a few more territorial gains. Fatehsingrao was promised the Peshwa's share of territories in Gujarat. The English further promised to defend Fatehsingrao against all foreign enemies and against any offensive attack of Peshwa.

The signing of this treaty at Kundila between English and Fatehsingrao was considered a good diplomacy of Fatehsingrao. Eventhough he was friendly with Peshwa still he chose to be an ally of English. The reason being simple Fatehsingrao wanted to be independent from Peshwa's subordination and his successors would be free from paying any tribute to Peshwas.

After the treaty of Kundila, the next move of Fatehsingrao was to capture the possessions of Peshwa in Gujarat with the help of English. Simultaneously another effort to reinstate Raghunath Rao at Poona was made by the English. The Peshwa thought of a compromise hence the treaty of Salbai was signed in 1782 between the English and Poona court, Fatehsingrao being a party to it Fatehsingrao gained nothing by this treaty. He had to forego Ahmedabad but the treaty of Salbai had the desired effect of a peaceful rule of Fatehsingrao till his end. Fatehsingrao tried to consolidate his rule and introduce reforms. Fresh skirmishes stopped. Fatehsingrao maintained good relations with English. Peshwa too did not interfere in his affairs afterwards till his death.

Thus Fatehsingrao could achieve the goal of consolidating the Gujarat state by having an effective rule without any interference with Peshwa. He had full cooperation with English. Pease and tranquility prevailed in Gujarat till his death in 1789. Diplomacy and shrewd politics paid dividends to this powerful ruler of Gujarat who could achieve an independent rule in Gujarat which his ancestors cherished.

Gaekwad and the Peshwa

The political problems of the Maratha rulers during the period arising out of the strifes between Shahu and Tarabai was to establish a well regulated internal administration in Maratha territories including Gujarat. They had to restore

peace after the civil war. Their aim was to lay a foundation of a stable administration. The problemswere too baffling to be solved by Shahu. Thus the incapability of Shahu combined with the ambitions of the Maratha chiefs paves the way for the Peshwa to rise to the situation.

The rise of the Peshwa's power is attributed to the political unrest in the Maratha State during that period. They could rise to the occasion and extricated the state out of this internal confusion, thus achieving considerable power. Balaji Vishwanath is considered the founder of the house of the Peshwa and by his own efforts made the office of the Peshwa hereditary to the family. He paralysed the power of his colleagues of the council of ministers (Ashtapradhan)Khanderao Dabhade the Senapati was one of them. The Peshwa in order to attain supremacy undermined the authority of Dabhade.

Peshwa tried to subdue Gaekwad's authority also by constant interference in his affairs. The interference of Peshwa dates back from the times of Pilajirao. With the gradual weakening of the central authority at Satara, Peshwa could secure the independent authority for administration from Chatrapati Shahu. The undermined position of Senapati led to direct conflicts between the two most important officers of the Maratha empire. Gaekwads were working under the banner of Senapati. Thus they

were obedient to Senapati and they tood did not like Peshwa's supremacy.

Gujarat and Baglan were under the authority of Senapati Dabhade , who authorised his lieutenant Gaekwad to operate in Gujarat on behalf of him. After the death of Trimbakrao Dabhade in 1731, his successors were not competent enough to manage their affairs. This provided the opportunity for Gaekwads to establish their hold over Gujarat. After 1731 though Gaekwad were under Dabhades, yet they held their independent authority to collect the revenues from Gujarat.

Bajirao tried to suppress the power of Gaekwad. He interfered in the collection of revenues in Gujarat and exerted that the collection should go through him to Chatrapati.Furthermore he allied with the Mughal Viceroy Abhai Singh to suppress the rising power of Pilajirao, who was subsequently assasinated. Peshwa Bajirao had asserted that Gaekwad was under his subordination.

Further conflicts between Damajirao II and Peshwa increased after the death of Chatrapati Shahu. Peshwa became more powerful and hence started again directly interfering into the Gaekwad affairs. Subsequently the partition treaty of 1752 with Gaekwad abandoned the Dabhade's claims in Gujarat. Then the Gaekwad became the sole authority of all the territories in Gujarat.

Inspite of the partition treaty being signed between Peshwa and Damajirao, the latter did not like the subordination to the Peshwa, but outwardly a reconciliation was there. Gaekwad was not gaining much in the conquests as they had to share it with Peshwa. Moreover they had to pay a handsome share in all the collection of revenues. Thus an internal dissatisfaction persisted between Gaekwad and Peshwa as the former's independent authority was undermined.

Raghunath Rao had revolted against his nephew Madhavrao I for securing half the share in the dominions of the Peshwa. He had been ambitious later on to get the Peshwaship when Madhavrao II succeded as Peshwa. This internal conflict in the family weakened the Peshwa's power.

During the succession dispute between Govindrao and Sayajirao Peshwa took advantage of his right in the matter of giving recognition to the succession. When Rathunath Rao assumed powers for a short while he promoted Govindrao's Gaekwad's cause. The Poona ministers were in favour of the succession of Sayajirao. The conflict between Poona ministers who were pursuing the cause of the infant Peshwa Madhavrao II, and Raghunath Rao created more confusion in Gaekwad succession in which finally Fatehsingrao succeeded in 1778, putting an end to the dispute.

The Peshwas are held in high esteem for extricating the Maratha sovereignty from confusion during the most critical period. This may be a fact, yet they cannot escape criticism of weakening the Maratha empire by personal selfish interests. In order to gain their supremacy, they tried to subdue other powerful chiefs of the Maratha empire. The other chiefs could have contributed in the expansion and consolidation of Maratha rule in whole of the country. The Peshwa had shown their ego for attaining power for themselves and thus weakened the Maratha power instead of strengthening it.

Gaekwads and the Mughals in Gujarat:

By the time Aurangzeb ascended the throne, the Mughal empire had expanded considerably. Aurangzeb too extended his rule farther south in Deccan. It was becoming unmanagable for him to have an efficient hold over all the territories he won. During that time the Maratha power under Shivaji was coming up and consolidating its position. Aurangzeb tried his might to curb the rising power of the Marathas but he couldnot succeed effectively. The reason may be attributed to it that during the last days of Aurangzeb's regime the Mughal administration was detoriarating, and the Mughal officers were also unable to check the Maratha activities because they never got the timely aid from the centre. Inspite of the fact that central rule at Delhi did not provide the timely aid, these officers were chastised for not controlling the rising Maratha power. In

general the Mughal administration in Deccan provinces including Gujarat was in the most confused state. Till the Mughal rule was on its rise these officers did not try to raise their heads against their sovereign. But when Mughal power declined considerably by the time Mohammad Shah acceded the throne, the Mughal chiefs in Deccan provinces and Gujarat started their efforts to become independent. In the west by that time Gaekwad had made an entry into Gujarat and they were trying to establish themselves. In order to suppress the rising Gaekwad power, the Mughal rule at Delhi made successive changes of the viceroys in Gujarat. These viceroys played a shifting role in the game of power politics. As these viceroys were not getting the required assistance from the centre, they had no alternative but to suppress the Maratha activities in Gujarat by peacefully settling the affairs with them. They authorised them to collect the Chauth of Gujarat. The decline of the Mughal power is indicated by allowing the Gaekwads to collect Chauth, the one fourth share in revenues of Gujarat.

The Mughal viceroys always tried to take advantage of the internal dissensions among the Maratha chiefs. When Dabhade and Gaekwads power rose considerably in Gujarat, the Mughal viceroys tried to suppress it by making alliance with the Peshwa, who seemed to be more eager than the viceroy himself. But none of such measures could check the rise of the Gaekwad's power in Gujarat. In 1737, the Mughal viceroy, forced by the

circumstances, had to submit and agree to share equally the revenues and the government of Ahmedabad with Damajirao Gaekwad II. By 1752 the Mughal authority was completely disintegrated in Gujarat by the joint efforts of the Gaekwad and the Peshwa. Though a last effort to reestablish the Mughal authority was made by Momin Khan II in 1756. But the attempt was foiled by Damajirao II and Peshwa, thus establishing a Maratha authority in the province, in place of Mughals.

Gaekwads and the English in Gujarat:

The province of Gujarat from the early times occupied an important position in the history of India. As early as in the times of Mughal Emperor Akbar, Portuguese first settled in Surat and carried out the trade. A century later after the arrival of the Portuguese, theEnglish came to India and landed in Gujarat.

The English settled in India and initially confined their activities to trade only. In the beginning they were not interested in the game of establishing an empire. Gradually they established in three Presidencies viz. Bengal, Madras and Bombay. In the beginning the three Presidencies acted independently with each other receiving the separate commands from the Company's Board of Directors from England. The Presidencies of Madras and Bengal had achieved much success in establishing their hold in those regions. Thus a sort of rivalry prevailed

in the Presidency of Bombay, English wanted to increase their hold in the western part of India too. The rising power of Marathas especially the Gaekwads and the Peshwas in the western part of India foiled the English ambitions of establishing their hold in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The English believed that unless the Maratha power is subdued their hold in this region would not be possible. With that idea in mind the Bombay Presidency, jointly with their Bengal counterparts, tried to suppress the ruling Maratha power. By this time the English influence had established at Surat, and they had their business houses (factories) at other places also in Gujarat. They had all the time tried to undermine the Maratha supremacy in the western part of India and for that solicited help from their counterpart in Bengal.

English gradually changed their designs and besides the trade ambitions tried to acquire territories in the western coast of India. By 1759, they could achieve the castle of Surat from the Mughal Emperor. The decline of Mughal power helped the English to establish gradually in other adjoining parts of Gujarat. They also got hold of Broach from the Nawab in 1772. With the expansionist tendency of the English, their policy with the Marathas also changed. In 1759, for the first time the English agent was sent to Poona with a view to settle the differences. This was a diplomatic move of the English to have their final designs to mature at a later date.

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By the times of Damajirao II, the Gaekwad power had increased in Gujarat to a great extent. By the middle of the century a settlement had been made for sharing the territories and revenues between the two, removing the hold of Dabhades and the Mughal governors from the Gujarat scene. The English had territories adjoining to the Gaekwad territories as such their policy was to keep diplomatically good relations with Gaekwads.

During the succession dispute after the death of Damajirao Gaekwad II, English played a significant role in the politics keeping their interest of consolidating their own powers.The English assumed importance in the conflict and tried to side Raghunath Rao who had in alliance with Govindrao. The rising power of Fatehsingrao was always in their mind and they never tried to antagonise him. The treaty of Kundila between Fatehsingrao and English is an example of their good diplomacy.

The English had created a goodwill with Fatehsingrao, This is evident from the last part of Fatehsingrao's rule where it is reported that he had always good relations with the English and never came into conflict. with them. The treaty of Kundila had a dual benefit. Fatehsingrao could consolidate his position and was getting complete independence from the Peshwa, while the English could carry out their designs peacefully in their territories without the interferences of

Fatehsingrao. The subsequent treaty of Salbai between Peshwa and English in 1782, could bring tranquility to Fatehsingrao to consolidate his position. Thus the English initially followed the policy of noninterference when they were interested in trade only, later during succession dispute by the policy of 'balance of power' and concurrently keeping in mind their territorial acquisitions.

Thus in concluding the present study it may be stated that although to begin with, the Gaekwads came to Gujarat as military commanders representing the court of Satara, yet they assumed the role of de facto rulers in Gujarat from the very start. Later on the Gaekwads tried to consolidate their position and power by increasing their territorial acquisitions to form a fully organised rule in Gujarat. What was initiated by earlier Gaekwad viz. Pilajirao and left half way due to his assassination was partially completed by Damajirao II and fully achieved by Fatehsingrao I who established a consolidated rule in Gujarat. Thus these Gaekwads laid the foundation of what was known to be Baroda State which finally merged with the Republic of India after Independence.

Appendix I

Gaekwads and the Babi family

One of the ancesters of the Babi family, named Sher Khan arrived in Gujarat in the reign of Shahjahan and was appointed 'thanedar' at Chunwal. His son Safdar Khan was appointed the 'faujdar' of Kadi and later was made Governor of Patan. In the course of time this family acquired big honours and during 1717 to 1724 was among the leading nobles of Ahmedabad[1]. Safdar Khan had two sons, Salabat Muhammad Khan who was the 'faujdar' of Viramgam and Jawan Mard Khan Sr., the 'faujdar' of Petlad. Idar was also under him till 1731.

In the year 1732 Salabat Mohammad Khan's son Sher Khan was given the charge of Baroda.[2] In the year that followed, Sher Khan played an active but shifting part in the confused politics of Ahmedabad. Sher Khan was associated with many important political developments in the province. He was appointed the deputy Governor of Junagadh in 1737 where he established himself as the first independent Nawab in 1748 on the collapse of the Mughal authority in Gujarat. He had his personal hereditary jagir at Balasinor. From 1737 to 1743 Sher Khan established his authority firmly at Junagadh. From

1. Comm. Vol.II, p.432.
2. Ibid. p.444.

1743 to 1748 he was actively involved in the politics of north Gujarat while still retaining his hold over Junagadh.

Onward the Babi's came in continuous conflict with the Gaekwad in 1734. Pilajirao's brother Mahadji recovered Baroda from Sher Khar Babi[1]. In 1735 Damajirao II occupied Viramgam which was under Salabat Muhammad Khan Babi. After this Gaekwad's and Babi's interest clashed quite occassionally. Before the advent of Gaekwad's power in the province of Gujarat, the Babi family was holding large hereditary Jagirs in the main land as well as in the peninsula. These jagirs were the major source of income to the chiefs who could maintain large armies. They took sides with the Marathas or the Mughal officers, as it suited their interests. Borsad, which commanded the road to the peninsula from the south was under the Gaekwad control. Most of the possessions of the Babis were in the peninsula, so Sher Khan Babi, the Governor of Junagadh kept off the Maratha attacks by his conciliatory policy towards Gaekwad. Jawan Mard Khan also acquired great powers and became the 'faujdar' of Radhanpur and obtained from the Mughal Viceroy the jagir of Sami, Manjpur, Tharad, Tharwara and Varoi.

1. Mirat. p.513.
   Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.227.
   Comm. Vol.II, p.444.

The defeat of the Marathas at Panipat encouraged the museum chiefs in Gujarat to establish their authority again and diminish the hold of Marathas in the province[1]. Like the other chiefs viz. the Nawabs of Khambhat (Cambay)[2], Babi family also tried to subdue the authority of Damajirao II in the area. Damajirao II took measures to crush the efforts of the Babis. Later Damajirao II moved to Patan, which he conquered and made his capital. Thereafter Damajirao took Visnagar, Vadnagar, Kheralu and Vijapur from the Babis[3]. These places were later conferred on Damajirao II by the Peshwa in military 'Saranjam'[4].

1.H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter Nos.80,87, & 89.

2.Ibid, letter Nos.91-93.

3 S.P.D.J., Vol.III, Letter No.223.

3.Ibid, letter No.226.

H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, letter No.92.

4.Vad G.C., Selections from the Satara Rajas & Peshwas Diaries Vol.I, p.125.
"The parganas of Patan, Badnagar, Sitpur, Khirata, Manjpur,Shami and Ranjanpur in Prant Gujarath which were under the jurisdiction of Kamaluddin Khan Babi and the village of Khede were conferred as a military saranjam on Damaji Gaekwad Sena Khas Khel Shamshir Bahadur".

Appendix II

Gaekwads and the Jagirdars of Kadi

Pilajirao bestowed Kadi on his younger son Khanderao with the approval of the Senapati Khanderao Dabhade. Khanderao Dabhade bestowed himself the title of Himmat Bahadur on Khanderao. Khanderao on several occasion attempted to advance his interests by the intrigues with contending Mughal viceroys. On one occasion Khanderao tried from Damajirao to grant him the fort and districts of Borsad and Nadiad. Though Nadiad was taken afterwards by Fatehsingrao, Khanderao was creating disturbances for Gaekwad to fulfill his selfish interests[1]. In 1772 Fatehsingrao could obtain the investiture of Sena Khas Khel for his brother Sayajirao I. This was followed by a civil war in which Khanderao sided with one or the other of his nephew. His son Malharrao afterward carried out the same policy with still greater insistence. These circumstances provided the Poona durbar an opportunity to dismember the Gaekwad possessions which they might have done, had not the Peshwa family itself after being weakened by their own family dissensions. In 1793 the territories of Malharrao Gaekwad amounted to rupees three and a half lakhs in Kadi and about one and half lakhs of rupees in Kapadvanj and Dehgam. Nadiad had already been taken from him by Fatehsingrao.

1. H.S.B.S.R. Vol.I, Letter No.78.
   Grant Duff, Vol.II, p.68.

Appendix III

Tributary states of Gujarat and Kathiawad and the rights exercised by the Baroda Government in these states

Memorandum on the rights exercised by the Baroda Government before 1820 in the states tributary to them in Kathiawad and Mahi Kantha. Extract of the relevant portions from the Notes on the "Smaller Indian States & Estates tributaries to Baroda in western India, MahiKantha and Rewakantha Agencies" by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, 2nd November 1933[1].

Political state and power of these states.

There may be two points of view from which the question may be approached - one is that these states were and are historically vassals of the Baroda state paying tribute to and subject to the overlordship of Baroda (it was such in its origin too) - other point is whether Baroda can claim sovereignty over them.

Until the middle of 18th century Gujarat was a part of the Mughal Empire. It was in 1755 that Ahmedabad the capital of Gujarat was finally taken possession of by Marathas.During the period of contest for supremacy in Gujarat between the Mughals and Marathas, small local chiefs or better call them

1. Direct Relations between Baroda and the Tributary States in Gujarat and Kathiawad - Printed at Baroda State Press, 1933, p.253.

Zamindars, paid with equal facility their revenues or 'Jumna' to every person who possessed the local authority in the district, neither Mughals nor Marathas interfered in their internal policy. But this fact must be borne in mind that Gaekwads came into Gujarat as military commanders representing the King of Satara, but in fact they assumed the role of defacto rulers from the very start. By the end of the 18th century Baroda was looked upon and treated by English East India Company as a separate and independent state. Apart from the Khalsa Mahals which were directly administered by Baroda State and thus formed integral part of it, there were other tributaries which remained in the hands of the original proprietors, who use to pay tributes to Baroda State. The Baroda State looked upon such territories as parts of its dominions. The practice which was followed in the matter of realising the tribute from the proprietors who held their own land was called 'Mulukgiri'. The regular and periodical enforcement of the revenue now called 'Mulukgiri', has for ages, in Gujarat been considered as constitutional and regular part of the sovereignty of the country.

Appendix IV

Baroda, the capital of Gaekwad Dominion.

The Gaekwad dominion in the eighteenth century was scattered all over Gujarat and Kathiawad. These territories were not compact, the reason being that initially the Marathas invaded Gujarat for the collection of tributes only and were not conscious of creating kingdom. Later they started exacting tributes in a regular fashion. Pilajirao and Damajirao II, during the collection of tributes started gradually occupying the territories also with the decline of the Mughal power. In certain regions the Gaekwads established their sovereignty in full without resistance while in other regions they were given a tough fight. Thus the dominion could not be properly organised in a compact form. The Gaekwad dominion in Gujarat comprised of regions lying between the river Mahi and Narbada, a block lying to the west of Sabarmati river, zones lying to the south of river Tapti and scattered areas in the peninsula of Kathiawad.

Baroda was the capital of the Gaekwad dominion in Gujarat situated on 22° 15" 30' north latitude and 73° 11' east longitude[1]. It was the seat of activity of the rulers of Gaekwad family. Malet[2] describes Baroda as "the capital of Gaekwad dominion and the residence of Fatehsingrao I, the reigning head of the family. It is situated six kos from Versara situated in a beautiful plain twelve kos from Pavagarh, the loftiness and bulk of which rising singly above the flat forms a most magnificient object".

1. Forbes, Vol.III, p.268.
2. Selections M.S., Vol.I, p.488.
   C.W.Malet An English Officer at Khambhat (Cambay) later Resident at Poona; account from his diary, Yr.1785-1786.

In ancient times Baroda was known by the names of 'Vatpattana' and Vatapadra (meaning abode of banyan trees). This sanskrit name was changed in Prakrit to 'Vadodara'.[1] The history of Baroda dates back as early as Indo Grecian era when the township of Ankottaka (present day Akota, a suburb of Baroda) on the left bank of Vishwamitri river was the vital link for Brugukachha (present day Broach), a humming area for the trade. Repeated floods in Vishwamitri were responsible for another settlement on the right bank known as 'Vadapadraka' during the Gupta and Chalukyas period. Solankis and Vaghelas ruled Gujarat in later centuries when this township developed. Baroda later came under the Sultanate of Gujarat during the Muslim rule. It came under the Mughals during Akbar's time. With the advent of the Gaekwads on the Gujarat scene in the eighteenth century, the Mughal rule came to an end. Finally Damajirao II took Baroda from Sher Khan Babi in 1734.

Forbes[2] describes Baroda during Fatehsingrao's time as "the fortifications of Baroda like most other places in India in those times consisted of slight walls, towers at irregular distances and several double gates. The town was intersected by two spacious streets in those days dividing it into four parts meeting in the centre at a market place, containing a square pavillion with three bold arches on each side and a flat roof and fountains".

1. Comm. Vol.II, p.448.
2. Forbes, Vol.III,p.268.

Appendix V

Chronological Summary of events

1664: First Maratha incursion in Surat under Shivaji.

1670: Second Maratha incursion in Surat.

1675: Marathas crossed Narbada for the first time to attack Broach.

1689: Shambhaji's execution.

1699: Rajaram appoints Khanderao Dabhade to collect Chauth in Baglan.

1702: Marathas levy tribute at Surat.

1705: Marathas cross the river Narbada and entered into Gujarat.

1706: Battle of Ratanpur.

1707: Shahu released from the Mughal confinement.

November 15, 1707: Battle of Khed, Tarabai defeated by Shahu.

1707: Balaji Vishwanath makes incursion in Gujarat and exacted tributes.

March, 1708: Shahu obtains possession of Satara.

1709: Pilajirao Gaekwad makes incursion into Surat. Attavisi.

1709: Agreement reached between Khan Dauran and Shahu for the grant of Chauth, Sardeshmukhi and Swaraj in Deccan.

1711: Damajirao Gaekwad I's first Mulukgiri expedition in Kathiawad.

November 16, 1713: Balaji Vishwanath appointed Peshwa.

1713: Daudkhan appointed Viceroy of Gujarat.

1715: Sayyad Hussain Ali Khan appointed Viceroy of Deccan.

1716: Khanderao Dabhade appointed Senapati by Shahu.

1716: Shahu commissioned Khanderao Dabhade to levy tribute in Gujarat and Kathiawad.

1717: Treaty between Hussain Ali Khan and Shahu.

February 16, 1719: Hussain Ali Khan and Balaji Vishwanath and Khanderao Dabhade reach Delhi to settle the tributes of Gujarat.

1719: Fort at Songadh built by Pilajirao.

September 28, 1719: Muhammad Shah's accession to the Mughal throne.

March 13, 1719: Mughal Emperor confirms treaty made between Shahu and Hussain Ali Khan in 1717, Marathas granted Chauth & Sardeshmukhi from Gujarat.

June, 1719: Khanderao Dabhade and Balaji Vishwanath return back to Deccan.

August 9, 1720: Battle of Balapur.

1720: Death of Balaji Vishwanath.

1720: Balajirao succeeds his father to the post of Peshwa.

1721: Damajirao Gaekwad I receives the title of Shamsher Bahadur and elevated second in command to Senapati.

1721: Death of Damajirao Gaekwad I.

1721: Pilajirao succeeds his uncle Damajirao as Chief Maratha leader in Gujarat.

October 24, 1722: Nizam appointed Viceroy of Gujarat.

February 12, 1723: Nizam appoints Hamid Khan as his deputy.

1723: Pilajirao Gaekwad builds fort at Rajpipla.

October 11, 1724: Battle of Shakkarkheda.

July/August, 1724: Sarbuland Khan appointed Viceroy of Gujarat, Shujaat Khan appointed as his deputy.

1724: War between Shujaat Khan and Hamid Khan, support of Maratha chiefs Pilajirao Gaekwad and Kantaji Kadam Bande in the war.

February 21, 1725: Battle of Addas; Grant of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to Pilajirao Gaekwad and Kantaji Kadam Bande by Hamid Khan.

April 5, 1725: War between Kantaji and Pilajirao near Cambay on the collection of tribute.

1725: 'Faujdari' of Viramgam and Patan given to Salabat Muhammad Khan Babi and to Jawan Mard Khan Babi by Sarbulandkhan.

December 27, 1725: Sarbuland Khan makes entry into Ahmedabad defeating Hamid Khan.

1726: Grant of Chauth to Kadam Bande by Sarbuland Khan.

1726: War between Pilajirao and Udaji Pawar.

1726: Siege of Dabhoi by Pilajirao and Kantaji.

1727: Pilajirao occupy Dabhoi and Baroda.

July, 1727: Chimanaji invades Gujarat.

1727: Nizam's alliance with Shambhaji of Kolhapur.

1727: Peshwa and Senapati's departure for Karnatak expedition.

February, 1728: Battle of Palkhed.

March 6, 1728: Treaty conducted at Mungi - Shegaon between Nizam and Peshwa Bajirao.

1729: Death of Khanderao Dabhade. Trimbakrao succeeds as Senapati.

1729: Chimnaji enters Gujarat and grant of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi to Peshwa.

November 7, 1730: Abhai Singh appointed the Viceroy of Gujarat.

April 1, 1731: War at Dabhoi between Peshwa and Senapati Dabhade alongwith confederates.

1731: Pilajirao appointed Mutaliq and conferred upon Sena Khas Khel.

March 1732: Assassination of Pilajirao.

1732: Capture of Baroda by Mughals.

1734: Recapture of Baroda by Mahadji Gaekwad.

1736: Momin Khan I appointed Viceroy of Gujarat.

1737: Alliance between Damajirao Gaekwad and Momin Khan. Joint rule of Mughals and Marathas at Ahmedabad.

January 16, 1738: Treaty between Bajirao and Nizam at Durai Sarai near Sironj.

May 14, 1739: Conquest of Bassein by Marathas.

April 28, 1740: Death of Bajirao.

June 25, 1740: Balaji Bajirao appointed Peshwa.

1741: Siege of Broach by Damajirao II.

1743: Death of Momin Khan I.

1743: Battle of Kim Kathodra.

1749: Damajirao's contest with the Peshwa as a partisan of Tarabai and Umabai Dabhade.

April 30, 1751: Peshwa's victory over Damajirao Gaekwad II.

November 14, 1751: Damajirao kept as captive in the fort at Lohgadh.

March 1752: Partition treaty at Poona between Gaekwad and Peshwa.

1753: Occupation of Ahmedabad by the joint forces of Damajirao Gaekwad II and Raghunath Rao.

1756: Siege of Ahmedabad by Momin Khan II.

1758: Joint rule of Ahmedabad by Peshwa and Damajirao Gaekwad II.

1761: Battle of Panipat.

June 24, 1761: Death of Peshwa Balaji Bajirao.

1763: Battle of Tandulja between Nizam and joint forces of Damajirao II and Raghunath Rao.

1763: Damajirao Gaekwad II conferred upon Sena Khas Khel.

August 18, 1768: Death of Damajirao Gaekwad II.

1768: Succession rights to Govindrao.

1771: Reversal of succession orders in favour of Sayajirao Gaekwad. Fatehsingrao appointed as Regent.

1772: First treaty between English and Fatehsingrao Gaekwad.

1773: Ascendency to Peshwaship by Raghunath Rao.

1773: Change in succession order in favour of Govindrao by Raghunath Rao.

1773: League of Barbhai's formed with the object of changing Raghunath Rao's succession.

April 18, 1774: Birth of Madhavrao II.

May 28, 1774: Madhavrao II receives the robes of Peshwaship from the Raja of Satara.

1774: Succession of Sayajirao Gaekwad again.

December 10, 1774: English designs of Salsette.

December 28, 1774: Thana taken by the English.

February 17, 1775: Battle of Adas.

March 7, 1775: Treaty of Surat between English and Raghunath Rao.

1775: Treaty between Fatehsingrao and Raghunath Rao.

1776: Treaty of Purandhar.

1778: Fatehsingrao conferred upon the title of Sena Khas Khel and his succession to the gaddi.

October, 1779: English designs against Ahmedabad.

1779: Convention of Vadgaon.

1780: Goddard captures Dabhoi.

January 26, 1780: Treaty of Kundila between English and Fatehsingrao.

December 11, 1780: English occupy Bassein.

May 17, 1782: Treaty of Salbai between English and the Poona Government.

December 11, 1783: Death of Raghunath Rao.

March 3, 1786: Sir Charles Malet appointed Resident at Poona.

December 21, 1789: Death of Fatehsingrao.